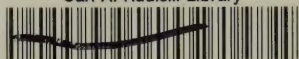


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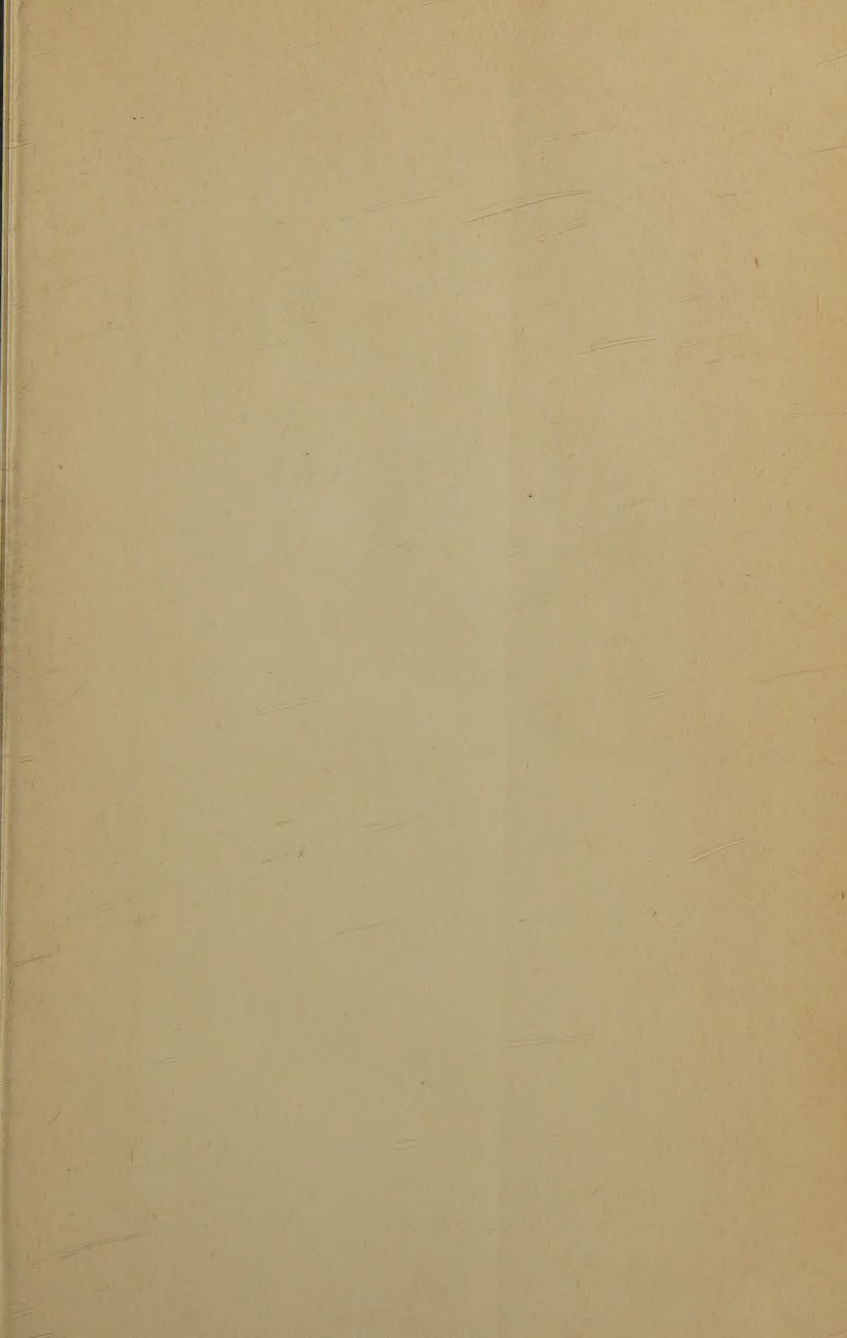
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FRANCE UNDER THE REPUBLIC

BY
JEAN CHARLEMAGNE BRACQ

LITT.D., LL.D.

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH LITERATURE
IN VASSAR COLLEGE

NEW AND REVISED EDITION



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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE first edition of this volume was published at a time when Conservatives and Clericals in France were asserting and reasserting her decadence. The book was intended as an answer to these pessimistic charges. It was an honest attempt to inventory the constructive work of the nation under the Republic, to gauge French life, not by those rhetorical assertions so frequently made by its official defenders, but by a calm statement of facts. Though well received by the public at large, a few accused it of excessive optimism. The writer again and again reiterated that there were great evils in the land of his birth; some of them he pointed out at length; others he assumed, perhaps without sufficient warrant, were known to his readers. To show the wholesome growth of the country, he produced a large array of evidence, very little of which has been contradicted, and all of which demonstrated the untenableness of the assertions of the opponents of the Republic. The terrible test of life and character to which

the nation has been subjected during the last twenty months has more than confirmed his conclusions.

The writer has used the word "Republic" in a chronological and not in a causal sense, though the form of government has been a factor in the results which he sets forth. Following the example of biologists, he has taken a cross-section of the recent life of France, and has shown its healthfulness by its functions and growth. He never claimed that the progress indicated had existed only under the present government, but that the Republic helps this growth and, as an historical landmark, furnishes us with a definite sweep of time in which to measure it. With all its deficiencies, it is the government which, in the long run, has best furthered the development of the latent powers of the people.

Some important changes have been made in this edition involving the introduction of new matter. The extracts from moral text-books, showing their decided religious character, have been eliminated, now that the reasons which demanded their publication no longer exist, but the general structure of the book has not been disturbed. Wherever possible the facts given have been brought up to date; otherwise they

have remained untouched. The word *now*, used frequently, refers to the period immediately preceding the present war. The author gratefully acknowledges the many suggestions made by his colleague, Professor Burges Johnson, which he has incorporated in this text. He has nothing to change in his estimates of the illustrious land which he has ever defended. The conviction expressed in 1910 has become an absolute certainty in 1916. He feels that when the present conflict is over, France, her head high after her great victories — moral above all — will resume her march forward according to her humane genius, along the path of civilisation and peace.

JEAN CHARLEMAGNE BRACQ.

VASSAR COLLEGE,
April 18, 1916.

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FRANCE UNDER THE REPUBLIC

CHAPTER I

THE WORK OF POLITICAL RECONSTRUCTION

“**Y**OUNG man,” said Renan to Paul Déroulède, “France is dying; do not disturb her agony.”¹ Thus at the end of the War of 1870 the French philosopher voiced not only his own feelings but also those of many other eminent French thinkers. Two beloved provinces had just been wrested from France, 1,900,000 of her subjects had been compelled to become Germans, twenty-six departments were occupied by the invaders, the Commune with its horrors, the disorganisation of public services, the lack of national coherence which Taine called “spontaneous dissolution”² and “social decomposition,”³ the collapse of finances, the clamours of the clergy for a war with Italy, the petty intrigues of parties, the

¹ Moreland, J., *Enquête sur l'influence allemande*, 1903, p. 11.

² H. Taine, *sa vie et sa correspondance*, vol. III, p. 67.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 71.

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prevailing mistrust, all seemed to justify the pessimism of two of France's greatest men. Yet the people did not despair.

The Commune, that horrible misunderstanding — which impelled some men to take up arms for lofty social reasons, some for the defence of local liberties, and others from sheer love of disorder — was put down with great severity, tempered later on with mercy.¹ By a superb outburst of patriotism, long to be remembered, the French people, after having faced burdensome financial obligations and paid \$400,000,000 to Germany, at the appeal of M. Thiers for \$600,000,000 more to settle the war indemnity, came forward with \$8,000,000,000.² This enabled the provisional government, before the time appointed by the Treaty of Frankfort, to hasten the departure of German soldiers from France. No achievement of the Republic has ever received such co-operation of all classes and of all parties. The civil service, purged of many of the politicians of the Empire, was rapidly restored and efficiently reorganised, though it was impossible to eliminate from it

¹ Bourlouton et Robert, *La commune et ses idées à travers l'histoire*, Paris, 1872; Washburne, E. B., *Recollections of a Minister to France*, New York, 1887; Hanotaux, G., *Contemporary France*, New York, 1903, vol. I, p. 158.

² *Revue des Deux Mondes*, Aug. 1, 1872, p. 696; Le Goff, *The Life of Louis Adolphe Thiers*, New York, 1879, p. 241.

that favouritism which has existed under all régimes.

✓ The most difficult problem of all was to decide upon the character of the future institutions of the country. Various governments were possible. The Legitimists, posing as the makers of French history, sustained by the nobility as well as by the clergy, had a fair political outlook, for they appealed to the religious and to the political traditions of the country. They would have succeeded had not the Comte de Chambord clung to his Bourbon white flag and refused to accept the tricolour.¹ The Orleanists were not without encouraging prospects, for they represented a popular form of monarchy, friendly to the Church, to progress, and to modern culture. They held up before moderate Frenchmen the not distant possibility of a constitutional government like that of Great Britain, while the Comte de Paris, by his past history, as well as by the signal beauty of his life, inspired the greatest sympathy. Moreover, his cause was sustained by men who were the most brilliant and popular opponents of the Empire in its last days. The Imperialists, on their side, could still depend upon all the beneficiaries of the previous

¹ Hanotaux, G., *Contemporary France*, New York, 1903, vol. I, p. 256; Seignobos, *Histoire politique de l'Europe contemporaine*, p. 184.

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rule, upon those who had held important sinecures, upon men with dictatorial instincts, and upon those who still idealised the military achievements of the first Napoleon. Masses of toilers still recalled the days of exceptional prosperity — not those of adversity — under a government which had led France through the Crimean War, the War of Italy, the War of Mexico to Sedan. They remembered particularly the festivals, the brilliant pageants, but *not* the corrupt régime and its pitiful collapse. They would have been happy to try Napoleonic rule again.

The Republicans had a decidedly inauspicious outlook. They stood before the public as the political visionaries and utopians of the land. Their principles seemed particularly idealistic and fanciful to those who posed as practical men. In Taine's eyes, the Republic was "less possible in France than anywhere else."¹ Their conception of government was repugnant to the conservative masses who were essentially hostile to the idea of political progress. Their aspirations ran full tilt against the ideals of the Catholic Church. The horrors of the French Revolution — not its beneficent effects — were still associated in the Catholic mind with a re-

¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 121.

publican régime, while the blunders of the Republic of 1848 seemed to many inseparable from republican rule. The upholders of democratic ideals were maliciously made responsible for the Commune, and represented as leaning toward socialism, then the terror of all respectable Frenchmen. In such circumstances, a republic seemed but a distant possibility. Yet this was the government imposed upon the nation, not by a deliberate choice, but by a hard, harsh necessity.¹ A republic had, at least, theoretic chances of stability for which the people greatly longed, while the triumph of the Monarchists would have doomed the country to an endless series of disturbances and revolutions. Again, any one of the three other parties, raised to power, would have removed all hopes from the opposition, while the Republic — for a while at least — kept them alive. Multitudes rallied to this political experiment but without any enthusiasm, with the feeling that it was the only possible peaceful government, and the one they wanted.

A good constitution—not the wisest that

¹ It is said that, on the evening when the National Assembly accepted the republican form of government, the wife of the President, MacMahon, said to some one sitting near her at dinner: "At last we have it, that rascally Republic." (Avenel, Comte Georges d', *Les Français de mon temps*, p. 20.)

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could be conceived but the best one for France, adapted to national needs, and capable of subsequent readjustments — was framed. It was not a high-sounding decalogue like most of its predecessors, but one susceptible of modifications which experience might suggest. The slight changes introduced into it, in 1875, 1884, 1885, and 1889, tend to show the wisdom of those who framed it. No country has elected its presidents more easily, more rapidly, or, as a whole, more successfully. The method of election provided by the constitution has proven a superb instrument of selection. Thiers, Mac-Mahon, Grévy, Carnot, Faure, Casimir-Périer, Loubet, Fallières, and Poincaré constitute a line of presidents of a fairly large mental calibre, of great dignity of life and efficiency. Without being blind to some of their limitations, where is the land whose chief magistrates during the same period would offer a finer record? So real have been the services rendered by them that no one now, as in the early days of the Republic, speaks of abolishing the office of president.

In the executive machinery, also, a great change has taken place. Several ministers have been added to those already existing. Agriculture, the colonies, and labour came to have their distinct places in the administration of the

country. The efficiency of the ministries has been increased by the gradual introduction of under secretaries of state, and by the co-operation of elected superior councils whose members are men of special competence chosen by their peers. The ministries thereby became to some extent representative institutions controlled by the Parliament. When this change took place for education, Jules Ferry rightly said that that ministry had ceased to be an administration, "to become an organised and living body."¹ The ministries are not simply executive, but also agencies carrying on extensive investigations and studies upon innumerable subjects affecting the national works and policies in many directions. The cabinets may change, but the regular officials of the ministries seldom do.

It is owing to this that one sees designs planned and carried out with remarkable continuity of purpose. The gradual control of North Africa by France is a notable illustration of this. The steady diplomatic policy since 1887 is another. Many other instances might be adduced to show the working of the permanent and unchangeable elements in the ministries. The cabinets, until recent years, were short-lived, and that was ascribed to French fickle-

¹ Rambaud, A., *Jules Ferry*, Paris, 1903, p. 102.

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ness; but critics failed to recall that the ministries were not constituted so much with a view to longevity as to national security. French legislators wished to avoid the repetition of Napoleonic dictatorship and of *coups d'Etat*. Even from the point of view of duration there is progress. While there were fifteen different ministries during the first decade of the Republic, there have been only five during the last ten years.¹ This increasing permanence of cabinets has often been secured at the cost of the favours of ministers to deputies who endeavour to obtain offices for their constituents; but even at this point the spoils system has never gone to the extreme which it has attained in some other countries. The wonder is that, with a system whereby a majority against one single proposal of a minister entails the overthrow of a whole cabinet, ministerial changes should not have been more numerous.

The Senate is perhaps the most perfect work of the Republic. It has had among its members scientists like Wurtz, Berthelot, Broca; philosophers like Littré and Jules Simon; literary men like Scherer and Deschanel père; religious men like Dupanloup and Edmond de Pressensé; royal spirits representing all shades of political

¹ Before 1910.

opinions, Laboulaye, Challemel-Lacour, d'Audiffret-Pasquier, Jauréguiberry, Haussonville père, Grévy, and Francis Charmes, the editor of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. It contains now the flower of French political intelligence. We see at its sessions de Freycinet, Béranger, Bourgeois, de Marcère, de Lamarzelle, de Courcel, Delpech, Dupuy (Ch.), Mézières, Clemenceau, Méline, Combes, Ribot, Siegfried, Rouvier, Ranc, Lintillac, Lozé, d'Estournelles de Constant, Ph. Berger, and Trouillot. It would be difficult to find another upper house in the world representing so much personal and political worth.

In the intention of its founders the Senate was, above all, to be a conservative institution. Gambetta, who, like most of his followers, opposed it at the outset, came to recognise its importance; then he spoke of it as "the Great Council of the Towns of France," a necessary check upon the Chamber of Deputies, the organ of French democracy as organised in cities.¹ At first it owed its superiority to the fact that its members might be selected by the government from among the most distinguished sons of France, outside of the political machinery. Now it has the signal advantage of drawing its

¹ Adam, Mme. Ed., *Nos amitiés politiques*, Paris, 1908, p. 244.

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members mostly from the deputies. The elected are better senators because they have been deputies, and often because they have been good deputies. The experience gained in the popular Chamber brings its best fruition in the Senate. Deputies are naturally drawn to the Luxembourg by the longer term of office, nine years instead of four, by the greater independence which they enjoy from their constituents, by the more dignified function and the greater honour. Senators are more carefully chosen than any other French representatives and by a smaller, more intelligent and select electorate. Thus, of the following senators sent to the two houses, Méline had 8,238 votes as a deputy and 659 as a senator; Francis Charmes was sent to the Palais-Bourbon with 4,171 votes and to the Luxembourg with 288; Charles Dupuy was made deputy by 10,201 votes and senator by 480.¹ The Senate has been all along an intelligent moderating and controlling power, often preventing hasty and unwise legislation. The slow ascent of its members from the Chamber of Deputies helps to create a homogeneity in Parliament which could not exist otherwise. It tends to eliminate the former aristocrats and

¹ Ribeyre, F., *La nouvelle chambre*, 1889-1893; Grenier, A. S., *Nos sénateurs*, 1906-1909.

the ultra conservatives on behalf of more democratic and progressive elements.

The Chamber of Deputies has often voiced the political effervescence of the land and reflected the spirit of its politicians. It has demagogues, radical demagogues and clerical demagogues, but judged by its best it would still bear a favourable comparison with any popular house of representatives on the continent. It suffers unquestionably from the elimination of its ablest members through their promotion to the Senate, but the new men are in closer touch with national feelings, more alert and earnest. They are less likely to become fossilised. Many of the disturbances of this house have been due to the parliamentary inexperience of the country. When the National Assembly gathered at Bordeaux, in 1871, there were distinguished men in its midst, such as the Duc d'Aumale, Thiers, Bishop Dupanloup, Prince de Joinville, General Chanzy, General Changarnier, Jules Simon, Léon Say, Gambetta, de Broglie, and Jules Favre — uncommon men, but as a whole not yielding the elements of a good national representation. Most of them were royalists incapable of reading aright the wants of the French nation. The Assembly was really composed of men unknown to one another and hardly ac-

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quainted with the real needs of France.¹ Contentions without number have arisen because of the dual spirit of the members of Parliament, some representing the old spirit of the Church and the privileges of aristocracy, while the others were upholders of absolute political equality.

One other reason for the frequent turmoils in this house is that French legislators have a far more difficult task to perform than the legislators of the United States because they have to deal with questions which, in this country, are settled by the states. The commotions in the lower house are also occasioned by the importance of the issue discussed. Since the contentions over slavery, in the legislative halls of the United States, no such burning questions have been before. American legislators as that of the secularisation of French schools, the dispersion of the unauthorised orders, and the separation of Church and State.

It should also be remembered that, as the Chamber of Deputies has the initiative in the matter of new laws, these are presented in a rough and indefinite form which is likely to excite bitter antagonism. Furthermore, the majority of deputies have the restlessness of progressive men. The so-called unruly elements

¹ Scheurer-Kestner, *Souvenirs de jeunesse*, 1905, p. 241.

have been those which have forced the Parliament to devise and to do. As a whole, the Senate has represented a wise conservatism, not unfriendly to change; and the lower house, a fearless, if at times impatient, spirit of progress. The Senate is still, at least in part, inspired by the political liberalism of the French Revolution, but the House of Deputies has directed its efforts toward social legislation, and endeavoured to remove some of the traditional injustice in contemporary society. The deputies have their unworthy members, but as a whole they do not deserve the sweeping denunciations of their enemies. The charge made against them that they are hostile to religion and bitter against religious ideas may be applied to only a few of the members. M. Paul Sabatier mentions religious speeches made before the deputies and listened to with perfect courtesy.¹ The interesting but long religious discourses of M. Eugène Réveillaud during the discussion of the Law of Separation would not have been heard so respectfully by American congressmen as they were by French deputies.² As to those who have systematically opposed both houses, it is difficult to speak with much praise. They have all along

¹ *Lettre ouverte à S. E. Cardinal Gibbons*, pp. 38 and 39.

² Réveillaud, E., *La séparation des églises de l'État*, Paris, 1901, pp. 239, 324, and 396.

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betrayed the cause of true conservatism by a tactless opposition. They have never known how to defend their interests properly by making needful concessions to rising democracy. They have often joined their own bitterest enemies to overthrow a moderate cabinet, bringing thereby to power those from whom they had most to fear. Comte Georges d'Avenel, a distinguished member of the French nobility, does not hesitate to recognise this fact.¹

The general councils (*conseils généraux*), or department assemblies, mere shams of local government under the Empire, have, with the Republic, become efficient instruments of provincial service and of decentralisation. Apart from their functions, which are constantly extended by new prerogatives, these councils have often voiced local feelings in such a manner and so concurrently with the Parliament as to leave no doubt as to the real state of the national mind upon any policy. Through these councils local interests have an organ of representation, and local ideas a voice, heard by the nation when necessary.

Though vexatious at times, the prefect is no longer the imperial satrap of Napoleon, before whom every one trembled. When he exceeds

¹ *Les Français de mon temps*, Paris, 1904, p. 41.

his rights, the representatives of local authority — now that there is a local independent authority — do not hesitate to remind him of it, or to have the matter brought before the Parliament. The prefect is still the representative of the central government, and, as a rule, a courteous and correct official. With the exception of Paris, which, like Washington, has a communalistic régime of its own, all municipalities are absolutely free in the choice of mayor, as well as in that of the members of their municipal councils. The towns have never had so much local government, and never have they devised more measures of local utility. With this has come a new municipal spirit of reform, progress, and enterprise. The writer could mention cities and villages, the progress of which reminds him of the advance of American communities.

One great change which has taken place is that the people are not at the mercy of public officials as under the Second Empire. There is nothing left of that awful *loi de sûreté générale*, whereby one could be arrested, exiled to other countries, sent to deadly penal colonies without any form of trial.¹ Exceptionally imperfect as

¹ Rambaud, *Histoire de la civilisation contemporaine en France*, Paris, 1901, p. 520; Scheurer-Kestner, *Souvenirs de jeunesse*, p. 101; Séché, Léon, *Jules Simon*, Paris, 1905, p. 74; Adam, Mme. Ed., *Nos amitiés politiques*, p. 8.

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the judiciary is at times, there recurs no such parody of justice as the famous *Procès des Treize*, when the imperial government had thirteen liberals condemned under the most futile pretexts.¹ Similarly has disappeared the *Cabinet noir*, in which the correspondence of suspected citizens could be, and was, examined by the government.²

All the changes which we have sketched have been encouraged and upheld by the suffrage of the nation, which has never been so free or so intelligent. Frenchmen in office, whether in politics or in the Church, have always used their influence at the ballot-box on behalf of their friends — they still do, and often with detestable methods — but the fact remains that the individual voter has never been so independent. Those who have known the *candidatures officielles* of Napoleon III smile when they hear criticism of the republican elections in which there is much, indeed, to condemn. Then, representatives of employers would visit the workingmen and practically give them orders to vote for the candidate patronised by the firm. Now, the workingmen may be bidden by labour-unions — these labour-unions affect only a lim-

¹ Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 9.

² Scheurer-Kestner, *Mes souvenirs*, pp. 110, 115, and 117; Larousse, *Grand dictionnaire universel*, vol. XVI.

ited number of voters — to sustain some favourites. The beneficiary of the government does what he can to influence votes. The administration helps its favoured candidates, but the fact remains that the voter, even so, can dispose of his ballot more freely than ever before.

The idea of liberty for all free French citizens, which was opposed at every step by the Empire, has carried the day. This is evident if we consider four highly important laws conceding new liberties. There is the law of June 10, 1881, granting freedom to hold meetings; that of July 31, 1881, sanctioning the freedom of the press; that of March 21, 1884, allowing the organisation of trades-unions and of various labour societies; and that of July 1, 1901, conceding freedom to organise corporations and associations. It may be asserted that as a whole the Republicans, in the midst of men systematically opposed to their ideals, have endeavoured to secure for the *greatest possible number* of citizens a maximum of liberty and justice. In so doing conflicts have come. No live nation can advance without them, but in the struggles for better things these conflicts have scarcely interfered with good civil service and progressive life. Mr. Bodley, an English gentleman ever unfriendly to the Republic, was

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obliged to recognise its good government. "I would be perplexed," he says, "to mention three nations which on the whole are better governed than France."¹

The increase of freedom for individuals has been, as just noted, extended to organisations. So great were the obstacles placed in their way, even during the last days of the Empire, that it was difficult to create any form of association, or to keep it alive. The consequence was that societies were few. Foreign ethnographers had noticed this, and ascribed it to racial traits — racial traits at that time explained everything. With the freedom of the Republic associations of all kinds sprang up in every direction. A little city that had two or three societies will now count them by the score. Commercial companies rose from 4,338 in 1884 to 7,133 in 1910; trades-unions from 175 to 14,842; mutual-benefit societies from 7,743 to 21,079.² According to the *Journal des Débats*,³ co-operative

¹ *France*, New York, 1898, vol. I, p. 44.

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1913. This work, to which we refer so often, is prepared under the direction of most eminent and competent men such as F. R. Stourm, whom we would call the President of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences; C. Colson, member of this same body and professor of political economy at the Paris Law School; the well-known J. Bertillon; the courageous and liberal economist, Yves Guyot, and other reliable members of the Council of General Statistics of France, having under them well-trained scientific statisticians at the Ministry of Labour.

³ April 15, 1906.

societies have increased in membership thirty-six times from 1870 to 1899.

This union and socialisation of efforts has shown itself in a multitude of religious works, of philosophical, scientific, philanthropic, and artistic associations. As soon as Frenchmen were able they took advantage of their freedom to organise associations so essential to progress.

This associational movement is not without its dangers. The rise of great organisations will doubtless create frequent conflicts with the State, but national security will be found in the principles of political equality, which are sinking profoundly into the national consciousness. Be that as it may, it is strange to find that, at the beginning of this twentieth century, the old Napoleonic law of 1810, that no more than twenty persons could meet together without the permission of the government, was still on the statute book. This legal landmark of former despotism had been subjected to the attacks of liberals from the days of Louis-Philippe to our own. In 1901, Waldeck-Rousseau put an end to that anachronism. Freedom of association was fully granted to all groups of citizens, but not to unauthorised religious orders which, with the various monastic associations,

had been so constant in their opposition to popular liberty.

It is probable that at no distant period even these restraints upon the orders will be removed. By the separation of Church and State, the country has also been freed from one of the most despotic political rules to which the clergy of the land was ever subjected, the Concordat. Whatever one may think of the manner in which it was abrogated, there can be no doubt as to the tyrannical character of that celebrated document, and of the Organic Articles that went with it, both of which were long and fully accepted by the Church.¹ Now Catholic priests, as far as the government is concerned, are liberated from all the restraints of bygone days. Religious bodies, persecuted under the Empire, now enjoy the greatest liberty. Baptists, Methodists, Theosophists, Buddhists, and Comtists have the right to preach and practise their peculiar tenets like Catholics, under the *droit commun*. Moslems are now building a mosque in Paris.

The development of the press, more than anything else, perhaps, enables us to gauge the extension of liberty. The harassed journalism of the Second Empire, daily exposed to ruinous

¹ See Chapters, XV and XVI.

finer, to the incarceration of the editor, seems to belong to another age than ours. Ranc was condemned to four months' imprisonment for an article not half so violent as those of the opposition to-day.¹ The manager or the printer of a paper could be arrested with the editor. The paper might be suppressed, thereby bringing about the bankruptcy of the owner. An internal-revenue tax was collected upon each number of any paper issued. All this has been replaced by a thoroughly independent and often extremely reckless press. Through the sudden extension of liberty, whereby those who accuse the Republic of tyranny can assail it ceaselessly in their papers, the expansion of journalism has been rapid, not to say extraordinary. At the close of the Second Empire Paris had only twenty dailies, and their circulation was small. Even the *Petit Journal* had an issue of not more than sixty thousand. In 1898 the Parisian dailies had risen in number to one hundred and ten. The circulation of the *Petit Journal* has long ago passed the million mark, while some of its contemporaries have attained a corresponding increase.² This development

¹ Adam, Mme. Ed., *Nos amitiés politiques*, p. 8.

² From 1880 to 1908 the number of dailies rose from 48 to 380 and the newspapers and periodicals from 2,980 to 9,877. (*Annuaire de la presse française*, 1909.)

of the press has told potently upon the individual, has often kept him at home, and helped the growth of personality.

The same freedom has been extended to literature. The Republic, for good or evil, has abolished the censure of literary and especially of dramatic works, assuming that the best censor, in this domain, is public opinion. The imperial laws, preventing the unfettered peddling of books, of pamphlets, of papers and pictures, were repealed; and the new statutes, as far as this domain is concerned, apply only to pornographic works.

The same generalising of freedom has been applied to the opening of saloons, and that with unfortunate results. A great change has also taken place in reference to travel and residence. Formerly there was a real inquisitorial system. Travellers were subjected to numerous formalities more or less vexatious, and even to the surveillance of spies in hotels. Any citizen travelling at a distance of fifteen or twenty miles from home was expected to carry papers, a labourer to have his *livret*.¹ The poor workingman was often prohibited from going to Paris or to other large centres to earn his livelihood, but now all

¹ Book of identity delivered by the authorities to the workingman, without which he could not secure any labour. The Republic has done away with it.

may go with the utmost freedom, and without annoyance, wherever they wish. Travel and transportation have been released from the irritating control of papers and passports. The new spirit has broken through the national exclusiveness, and foreigners may be naturalised more readily than before.

Nothing can give a better idea of the work of the Republic than the general trend of legislation. Something has been done — much more remains to be done — to free the child from absolute paternal authority which is still the survival of Roman law. The former power of parents to prevent the marriage of their children has been greatly restricted, and that with good results. The French code now allows the judiciary to take away children from the care of vicious parents. The legal status of woman has been raised. Women at the head of commercial houses, or of large industrial pursuits, have the right to vote at elections for judges of the tribunal of commerce; they may be witnesses in matters of deeds or other legal documents; they may study and practise law, or devote themselves to any science or art. The legal and social progress has been such that a woman, Mme. Curie, has become a professor of science at the Sorbonne and occupies one of

the foremost chairs of French higher education. A law was passed in 1891 securing to the wife a more equitable share in the property of her deceased husband. Another law has been passed that secures to a married woman her wages, which previously could be collected by her husband, even when he had deserted his home. In the case of intolerable marriage situations the law has provided the solution of divorce.

The statute book now contains provisions for the greater protection of the accused before French courts. They are no longer considered guilty until they have proven their innocence. They may have legal counsel immediately after their arrest; and even in civil cases, if one of the parties is too poor, the State comes to his rescue and furnishes a competent lawyer. The accused in a criminal case is no longer obliged to stay in prison awaiting the good pleasure of the judge; but if his case is not ready, he may have conditional freedom. A new law, now before the Senate, guarantees the inviolability of the home and of the correspondence of the accused. The Parliament is now endeavouring to transfer to the civil courts, in time of peace, the military cases which hitherto have been decided by martial courts.

The tendency has been to bring all misde-

meanours exclusively before the judiciary, and to assert the absolute independence of the bench from the executive. The Dreyfus case, when France was divided into two camps, each having upon its flag, *Fiat justitia*, whatever else it showed, showed also how, in different ways and at any cost, both wanted justice, both were ready to sacrifice for justice even national peace. Laws also have simplified the revision of criminal cases, rendering it both easier and quicker.

The fundamental principle of law-making has been reversed. Thus, in attempting to solve problems, and especially labour problems, Napoleon III proceeded by notions of abstract justice, rather than by rules of equity growing out of concrete cases. The laws of the Republic have been empirical, ever endeavouring to eliminate wrongs in conditions. The aim has been not so much to punish as to prevent wrong; it has been not individualism but solidarity. While a great ethical purpose runs through the new legislation, the influence of remarkable legal studies, the prominent part played by great jurists, their numerous reviews and rich publications have given strength and direction to the movement.¹ The national juris-

¹ The study of the activities of French jurists would be a revelation to most readers. See *La Science française*, 1915, vol. II, p. 317.

prudence has been liberalised and humanised. The celebrated Bérenger Law is a law of probation, which interests a culprit in his own moral regeneration. Incarceration before a trial must now be reckoned as a part of the total penalty. Imprisonment for debt has been abolished. The Republic has not only made a great advance in the nobler and more dignified administration of justice, but in seeking for absolute justice itself. Thus the man who has atoned for his guilt cannot be punished further by being called an "ex-convict." In the scales of French justice those who have endured the penalty of the law cannot be pursued further through life by a relentless social Nemesis. Nature is merciless, but justice, which rises above nature, must be a barrier against social vengeance.

If we turn from the consideration of the features of a great internal change to that of the adaptation of the Republic to her international environments, we shall be impressed by the progress made. In the last days of the Second Empire, France had been isolated by the meddlesome and tactless policy of the emperor. He gained nothing from England by his participation in the Crimean War, while he irritated Russia for years to come. He aroused the feel-

ings of the American people by the campaign of Mexico, as well as by his open sympathy for the South during the Rebellion. He excited the resentment of Austrians by the War of Italy, without winning the gratitude of Italians; for while he helped them to secure their unity, he constituted himself the custodian of the last remnant of the temporal power of the Pope. Had the son of Hortense been willing to have French soldiers leave Rome, on the eve of the Franco-Prussian War, Austria and Italy would have joined France against Germany in 1870. In the great conflict France was thoroughly isolated, and the moral sentiment of the whole world was against her in just condemnation of the war, now known to have been brought about by Bismarck, whose supreme art was to provoke it and cause Napoleon to appear as the aggressor.¹ This war was virtually continued by the Iron Chancellor, who organised the Triple Alliance to isolate France, while another triple alliance had been made between England, Italy, and Spain to check French action in the Mediterranean.² The attitude of Bismarck, alarmed at the rapid recuperation of the country, came near

¹ See Bismarck's confession, *Vienna Free Press*, Nov. 20, 1892, or *Le Temps*, Nov. 23; Busch, M., *Bismarck, Some Secret Pages of His History*, 1898, vol. II, p. 174; and Bismarck's *Autobiography*, p. 101.

² Bérard, V., *La France et Guillaume II*, 1907, p. 22.

bringing about a new conflict, which was averted, thanks to the good offices of St. Petersburg and of London.

The place which France had lost in international life has been more than regained. The labours of M. Delcassé were of signal value in the improvement of French external relations. He was a leader in the peace policy of Europe. He did not wait until all the powers were compelled to move by the irresistible behests of the conscience of the civilised world. At the time of Fashoda, he urged arbitration upon the points at issue; and even when this was refused by England, he still showed the most conciliatory attitude.

From this policy he never deviated. He was foremost in signing treaties of arbitration, and in putting an end to Anglo-French controversies. The settlement of the Newfoundland difficulty was due, in a very large measure, to his far-sighted and conciliatory spirit. He brought Great Britain to make the neutrality of the Suez Canal real, while the Egyptian question ceased to be a constant cause of Anglo-French friction. The Republic had already brought about the Russian Alliance, but he created the Anglo-French *entente*, followed by the Franco-Italian and the Franco-Spanish agreements,

equally commendable. An enumeration of his successful diplomatic acts with almost all the other powers would be as flattering to the great minister as it would be fatiguing to the reader. He did not plan the isolation of Germany in Europe; "he worked against no one." He prepared the pacific solution of the Moroccan problem, which cost him his portfolio, as the Rouvier Cabinet sacrificed him to placate Germany. If the Kaiser endeavoured to prevent the carrying out of the Delcasséan plans, the powers, at Algeciras, gave a virtual sanction to them. In any case, there could not have been a more flattering manifestation of the good-will of all but two of the powers than that which was given at that conference. They were all aware that there is a radical difference between the ideals of humanitarian solidarity of the Republic and the racial exclusivism of the German Empire.

Since that time M. Pichon has only continued the policy of M. Delcassé. He has brought about a Russo-Japanese reconciliation, reached a new understanding with Spain in reference to the Mediterranean and North Africa, made an agreement with Japan shielding French Asiatic possessions, contributed to the better relations of Russia and England, and, on Feb-

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ruary 9, 1909, signed an important agreement in reference to Morocco with Germany. In dealing with world-problems, France took a most active part at the Conference of Brussels, in 1874, at that of Berlin in 1885, and at those of The Hague in 1899 and in 1907. She inaugurated the era of international congresses, as essential parts of expositions, at her World's Fair in 1889, and has been largely represented in those which have taken place on such occasions elsewhere. International congresses, upon all great issues of our times, have not only been instruments of international friendliness and peace, but they have been a great educative force, bringing into French life the experience of man from all parts of the world. The influence of these gatherings has been intensified by the many international societies¹ which the larger life of the Republic has fostered. Never have French diplomatic relations been more satisfactory or French life more in touch with all great human interests beyond national borders than during the last forty-six years.

¹ Fifteen of them have their headquarters in France.

CHAPTER II

THE TRANSFORMATION AND EXPANSION OF FRANCE

REPUBLICAN France has also made great sacrifices to improve her capacity for resistance and her power of expansion. The army, which was disorganised, not to say demoralised, by the misfortunes of the Franco-Prussian War, has been remodelled. Whatever may be the present limitations of French officers, there is an essential difference between them and those of the Empire. An officer of the staff of General Félix Douai asked at Mülhausen, in 1870, if the Hartz was broad and had a bridge over it, taking that forest for a river; and General Michel telegraphed the Minister of War to ascertain where his own troops were.¹ The officers of to-day have worked much, and from a technical point of view are superior to all their predecessors. Taken all and all, the same thing must be said of their manliness and devotion to their country. The campaign in Morocco and the present war have

¹ Scheurer-Kestner, *Souvenirs de jeunesse*, p. 160.

abundantly demonstrated their heroic spirit. The corruption revealed at the time of the Dreyfus case was connected with the Bureau of Military Information, in which a man to excel is tempted to trample under foot the moral principles everywhere upheld by true men. The army is now like the nation. It is no longer made up of the poor, the ignorant, or paid substitutes. The *marchands d'hommes*, who made it their business to provide some one to take the place of the rich, disappeared with the Empire. The son of a peasant and the son of a duke now stand side by side in the ranks. There wealth and birth no longer create much inequality, though the officers come mostly from aristocratic families; but the middle class is more and more taking an important place among them.

The term of military service has been reduced from seven years to two years.¹ The peace footing of the army has risen from 400,000 to 571,000, and the war contingent from 540,000 to 4,350,000,² but France never led, she only followed, Germany in her increase of men and of armament. As Captain Lebaud has said: "The conception of the army has changed. It is no longer intended for the purpose of con-

¹ It was restored to three years in 1914.

² Rambaud, *op. cit.*, p. 569.

quering new territories, but to safeguard the national honour. The soldier to-day is a free and conscious citizen who is entitled to some consideration."¹ The army is fast becoming something more than a fighting machine. The officer is more than a commander, he is rapidly becoming an educator. In many places he has opened schools which have been quite successful. In the opinion of Captain Lebaud, the residence in barracks should build up manhood rather than mere technical ability. Good appearance should be an index of self-control and self-restraint. Hazing has almost disappeared. The attacks of French pacifists upon the army have contributed much to its transformation. There can be no question that it brings Frenchmen of different provinces together, introduces a common national spirit among men who have never been assimilated,² leads them to speak the national vernacular of which they have been ignorant, while it imparts to them a discipline which, later on, may be obtained outside of the army. In Madagascar it has become a great force of colonial pioneering and of instruction in the arts of peace. The soldiers have been made overseers, gardeners, farmers, road build-

¹ *L'Education dans l'armée d'une démocratie*, p. 55.

² This is the case with the Basques, the Bretons, and the Flemish.

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ers, engineers, etc.¹ The same thing was true of the recent campaign in Morocco. They built roads, constructed bridges, opened markets, established a postal and telegraph service, dispensaries, etc.² Many of the leaders became explorers, such as Gallieni, Gentil, Mizon, Binger, Toutée, and Lamy. One cannot but gratefully record what French troops have done under the Republic to deliver Africa from the black Caligulas, Samory, Behanzin, and Rabat, whose records of cruelty surpass the darkest deeds which the most sanguinary imagination could picture. It would be an act of signal injustice not to mention the great services rendered everywhere to science by French officers.

The navy, in 1870, stood second only to that of Great Britain; now it ranks fourth or fifth. This shows the non-belligerent intentions of the country whose finances would have enabled her to build many more naval units if she had wished. However, the quality of her seamen has been vastly improved. That the British should have an admirable navy is quite natural. The whole British people have an irresistible love of the sea and of ocean travel. They are the nomads of the deep. The French are much more attached to the soil. With the exception

¹ Gallieni, *La pacification de Madagascar*, 1900.

² *Le Siècle*, Jan. 23, 1909.

of those living along the coasts, they have none of the instincts of a maritime people. To develop qualities of seamanship the government has given extensive bounties to fishermen, most of whom, in time of war, would be available for service in the navy. The existence of a large fleet cultivates the habit of life on the ocean which not infrequently becomes love of the sea. In this respect there has been a change in the feelings of Frenchmen. Nothing is more interesting than the poetic effusions of Richepin, a man who had stood before the mast, upon the beauties of the ocean and the glories of the deep. This modification of the French attitude toward seafaring life is a factor of no little moment in reckoning the naval strength of France. We might apply to the navy the remarks made about the army, that, apart from the sense of security which it gives to the nation, it exerts considerable influence upon the populations coming into touch with it, and remains a necessity so long as the French flag floats over so many lands and all the great nations keep up their burdensome naval armaments.

The colonies and protectorates of France, leaving out Morocco, have increased eight times in extent. During the Republic has come the idea of a greater France through her union with her most important colonies. Like Russia she

has her most promising colonies at her door. One by one African possessions have been added by arrangements with the powers until the French flag flies over territories extending from the British Channel across the Mediterranean to the Congo River. These acquisitions and groupings have been carried on with a continuity of purpose which is truly admirable. There is a scheme to unite more efficiently these possessions by a railroad extending from Algiers to Lake Tchad. Railroads have been built in Dahomey, Senegal, Algeria, and Tunis. Though this last province has been less than thirty years under French rule, it possesses as many kilometres of railroad in proportion to its population as France itself. The projected railroads, those in process of construction and those in running order, for the province are 1,265 miles long.¹ The Trans-Soudanais, uniting Senegal and the Niger Valley, will, when completed, have a length of 1,674 miles; an important part of it is already finished and prosperous.² The Guinea Railroad was finished to the 248th mile, August 30, 1909.³ The great and most difficult railroad from the eastern coast of Madagascar to the heights of Antananarivo is completed from the ocean to the former capital of

¹ *L'Illustration*, April 16, 1910.

² *Le Temps*, Sept. 3, 1909.

³ *Ibid.*, Sept. 21, 1909.

the island. Timbuctoo, the city which had remained so long an agglomeration of men the farthest removed from all possible western influence, is a well-governed French possession. Caravans now go from there without difficulty to the most northerly points of Africa. A great work of the French has been the digging of thousands of artesian wells which bring fertility as soon as they are dug, while much has been done otherwise for irrigation.

The capital invested in French colonies is not far from one billion dollars, while the colonial trade has developed rapidly. This is not the case with such colonies as St. Pierre and Miquelon, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Réunion, but with those which came under the French flag during the second half of the nineteenth century which are quite prosperous.¹ Furthermore, the

¹ COMPARATIVE TRADE OF THESE COLONIES

	1894	1911
Algeria.....	\$109,770,000	\$232,026,000
Tunis.....	15,771,000	53,068,800
Senegal.....	9,030,800	25,625,200
Guinea.....	2,028,000	7,589,600
Ivory Coast.....	1,538,800	7,762,000
Dahomey.....	4,149,200	8,326,400
Congo.....	2,119,600	9,407,800
Madagascar.....	2,133,800	18,459,800
Indo-China.....	34,197,600	98,857,800
New Caledonia.....	3,017,000	5,650,800

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colonial finances have been so administered that many of them have a surplus in their budgets.

To defend these possessions a colonial army has been created. Many natives have been incorporated in it, and their education has not been neglected. In Algeria were created *Medersas*, or training schools for the Islamitic clergy who thereby became more intelligent and more liberal. Schools were opened also by Jules Ferry with the thought of educating the natives to render them capable of fully enjoying the rights of citizenship. If these people at times have been molested, as a rule the government has protected them against the greed of European settlers — French as well as others. M. Etienne said in Parliament, some years ago, that in Algeria, after so many years of French occupation, the natives still held twelve-thirteenths of the land, which they are fast improving. Following the methods of their conquerors, their farming has been modified so that where they reaped only four bushels of wheat, now the yield is nine.¹ Agriculture has become diversified. Large vineyards have been established, olive-tree plantations have been made on a large scale, the gathering of cork has assumed some importance, and truck farms send

¹ *Le Temps*, June 1, 1909.

their early vegetables to Europe. The exports from Algeria and Tunis to France amounted to \$76,491,400 in 1911. All the great instruments of civilisation have been introduced. Mr. James F. J. Archibald, the war correspondent, speaks of "the truly marvellous work the French government has done in Algeria in the past sixty years, and in Tunis during the last twenty years."¹ Those who are acquainted with the colonial history of the world and of black France will be pleased to hear the same gentleman say: "Not until I visited the French colonies of northern Africa did I find what I considered a most perfect form of colonisation, and I now firmly believe that the French people and the French government are to-day the most practical colonisers of the civilised world."

The experiences in the colonies have reacted upon the education of the mother country. The general abstract conception of man has been modified by coming in contact with other races. A colonial literature has come into existence describing the homes of Frenchmen beyond the sea, or the tragedies springing from the contact of the colonists with the natives. In 1909 was founded *La Société coloniale des artistes français*, devoting itself to colonial themes, showing the

¹ *The National Geographical Magazine*, March, 1909.

artistic possibilities of new lands under new conditions. Legislators have provided abundant colonial laws and distinguished legists have co-ordinated them. It is not without significance that there is already a codification of the laws in force in Morocco.¹ Colonial schools, colonial gardens, and colonial experimental stations have exerted considerable influence. *Le Jardin colonial* has studied the best species of cacao-trees, of sugar-canes, of gutta-percha and rubber plants for colonies. It has made special studies of all forms of colonial produce, thereby incidentally rendering services to botany. An institute of colonial medicine studies all the diseases of foreign possessions. There is scarcely a science that has not had new possibilities opened with the creation of new colonies and that has not rendered services to them. Societies, such as the *Union coloniale*, *La Colonisation française*, *La Mutualité coloniale*, and the Protestant society of colonisation further the colonial cause. An important French association uses every means in its power to promote the culture of cotton in Africa. The results have been encouraging. The total production, which was practically nil a few years ago, reached the figures of 360,800 pounds in 1907,

¹ *La Science française*, 1915, vol. II, p. 329.

376,200 pounds in 1908, and 523,600 pounds in 1909.¹ National industries have adapted themselves to colonial needs and have shown great ingenuity in meeting new conditions. Important iron works, bridges, and piers have been made for the colonies. There have been constructed machinery for colonial agriculture, special means of transportation, contrivances for colonial comfort, transportable houses, colonial furniture for special districts and climates, new adaptations of rubber, gauzes, and clothes for use in distant lands. No people has made an earlier or better use of automobiles in the colonies than the French. As they had been great road builders, when the day of automobiles came these machines had before them uncommon possibilities.

Colonial expansion has led intelligent Frenchmen to see that the old military methods of defending national territories, by covering them with fortresses, was an anachronism and that France could not provide the twelve or fifteen thousand miles of frontiers of her vast empire with fortifications and men. The conclusions concerning the colonies have, right or wrong, affected the solutions of problems at home.

The railroads have also made a great advance.

¹ *Le Temps*, March, 29, 1910.

The old car, separated into inconveniently narrow compartments, is being replaced by the long car of comfortable dimensions, and on important lines one may see vestibule trains. They have nearly trebled the extent of their lines, their net income has more than doubled, the number of travellers quintupled, and the tons of merchandise transported have risen fourfold. For every mile of national highways there are now nearly two, while there have been great improvements in the quality of the roads. In less than half a century the tonnage of French ports has quadrupled.¹ The telegraph service leaped to figures ten times greater than those at the beginning of the Republic, with a total income four times larger. The same story could be told of the telephone of the post-offices, whether we refer to their service or to their income.

Notwithstanding the almost irresistible competition of wheat-growing countries, having the advantage of a virgin soil, France still raises almost enough wheat for her consumption. Her yield is greater year by year. Where she formerly reaped 25 bushels, now she has 40. Rye and barley are extensively raised. Oats have increased 27 per cent. The production of fodder has been doubled in twenty years.

¹ Théry, Ed., *Les progrès économiques de la France*, 1909, p. 250.

In different parts of the country has come the culture of small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, cherries, plums, which are not only distributed to the French market but are sent in enormous quantities to Great Britain. The larger fruits have come to be cultivated more extensively, whether used for the table or to make cider and *poiré*. Grape culture has made progress. The phylloxera, which years ago destroyed the greater part of the vineyards of France and inflicted a loss estimated at two billion dollars,¹ has been practically stamped out. French wine-growers have shown great moral strength in fighting the evil and replacing the plants destroyed. The acreage and total product are larger than in 1870. The variety of agricultural and horticultural produce has also increased. The floral culture of the Riviera has led to large exportations of flowers, even to America, while great quantities are used for the making of perfumes. Some parts of southern France and Algeria have become the gardens of large French centres and of England. Frenchmen have never before drawn so much from their soil, or made more advantageous uses of its produce.

¹ Hanotaux, G., *La France, est-elle en décadence?* Théry, Ed., *op. cit.*, p. 135.

The former superstitions of cattle-raisers, who made religious pilgrimages for the cure of their herds,¹ or got priests to bless their flocks before starting for distant pastures,² is slowly, but surely, disappearing, giving place to the skill of the veterinary surgeon. The farmer no longer asks processions like that so beautifully pictured by Jules Breton, nor does he go to church to have the priest bless the seeds before they are intrusted to the ground, but goes rather to the agricultural chemist, buys proper fertilisers, seeks new markets, studies new demands, and strives to supply them. He employs machinery upon an unprecedented scale. Not to speak of those made at home, almost all forms of American agricultural implements have been quickly introduced. During the summer of 1908, the writer, in the valley of the Loire, saw three reaping machines following each other in the same field; and *L'Illustration*, soon after, showed a procession of five in the same field of wheat. Under the Empire all this work was done by hand.

This great change has come from a better education and greater agricultural intelligence.

¹ See *L'Illustration*, July 6, 1907, in which there is a picture of Breton peasants carrying the tails of their sick cows and placing them upon the altar to secure the recovery of those animals.

² *Ibid.*, Jan. 8, 1907.

Since Gambetta founded the Ministry of Agriculture, an important part of its functions has been agricultural education. This is given in its highest form by the National Agronomic Institute of Paris, by three veterinary schools with twenty-seven professors, and by the National School of Forestry of Nancy. Then there are three secondary schools of agriculture which study the peculiar problems of the regions in which they are situated, having a staff of twenty-six professors and twenty-nine lecturers. For this secondary grade of work there are also the School of Agricultural Industries of Douai and the National School of Horticulture of Versailles. In the lower grade of instruction come thirty-four practical elementary schools of agriculture, viticulture, and horticulture; twelve schools of irrigation, of draining, of the care and uses of milk, of cheese-making, and of the care of poultry; nine schools of arboriculture and the care of fruit; forty-two *fromageries-écoles*, at once cheese factories and schools for instruction in cheese-making. Every one of the eighty-six departments into which the country is divided has an experimental station. There are forty-two agronomic stations and laboratories for analyses, six stations of œnology, not to speak of the thirteen stations of zoology, of entomol-

ogy, of sericulture, of experiments with seeds, of vegetal physiology, of vegetal pathology, of animal physiology and cattle-feeding, of vegetal physics, of fermentation, and of testing machinery. There are also three schools for the training of girls for the duties which may devolve upon them in farming.¹

This agricultural transformation has also been accelerated by the improvement of roads,² by the greater facilities offered by railroads, by the reduction of farmers' taxes,³ and by the encouragements given to agricultural societies. The sum placed by the government at the disposal of 1,500 mutual loan banks⁴ is now \$16,000,000.⁵ At the Congress of Angers, July, 1907, M. de Rocquigny showed that agricultural associations, though of recent date, had reached the number of 3,553. In 1912 Charles Gide sets them at about 30,000.⁶ Against cattle mortality there were 7,000 local mutual insur-

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913; *Annuaire de la jeunesse*, 1907.

² On April 10, 1879, there were voted at one meeting of the Parliament \$40,000,000 for the roads of the country. (Rimbaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 184.)

³ In 1879, 1890, 1898, and 1905, important reductions of taxes were made. In the budget for 1898, they amounted to \$5,200,000. (Rimbaud, *Histoire de la civilisation contemporaine en France*, p. 749.)

⁴ Méline, J., *The Return to the Land*, New York, 1907, p. 94.

⁵ *Compte-rendu du sixième congrès national des syndicats agricoles*. (Foi et vie, Dec. 1, 1907.)

⁶ *Economie sociale*, p. 538.

ance societies with 355,000 members, as well as 1,000 mutual insurance societies against fire.

Co-operative associations have rejuvenated the farming of some districts by introducing new forms of produce for the Paris markets, by developing the export of horticultural crops, and by using refrigerator cars to facilitate the transportation of perishables, meats and vegetables alike. These organisations have also paid some attention to the well-being of the rural population, the improvement of dwelling-houses for farmers, and to old-age pensions for aged toilers.¹

Such have been the improvements of farming life that an ever larger class turns to agriculture, and the number of small land-owners is increasing. According to M. Ruau, Minister of Agriculture, there have been, during the last twenty years, only two out of eighty-six departments in which concentration of property has taken place. The new education and the new life have taken traditional French agriculture out of the old ruts, and showed it a world of new possibilities which have been realised. It might be added that the government has recognised agriculture by a special decoration known as the *mérite agricole*, although this may possibly be

¹ *Compte-rendu du sixième congrès national des syndicats agricoles.*

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brought into disrepute by being distributed too freely.

The industries of the country have been quickened by science. Thus, the ability to transmit electric energy to great distances has almost created a revolution. There has been a great rush in seizing and utilising all the waterfalls. The west side of the Alps alone can furnish 4,000,000 horse-power, and the Pyrenees, the Vosges, the Cévennes, and the central mountains may yield 5,000,000 more. This new power,¹ now called *houille blanche*, "white coal," is more and more constituting a natural equivalent for the cheap coal which English competitors enjoy.

Again, the country, as compared with others, has a peculiar distribution of industrial interests. The salaried workmen are only 5 per cent more numerous than the employers or those who work on their own account. The 19,652,000 persons connected with French industries, in the largest sense of the term, are divided into two almost equal parts. 8,996,000 are either employers or those who work on their own account, while the employees number

¹ To produce this power by a triple-expansion engine it would take 30,000,000 tons a year of the best anthracite coal and with a double-expansion engine 39,000,000 tons. (President C. W. Chamberlain.)

10,655,000.¹ In spite of opposite tendencies elsewhere, in France this economic individualism is growing.² The advantage of such a condition is that it is a spur to individual ambition, that it is more favourable to the all-round development of the labourer, that it secures a wider distribution of profits, and that it makes for greater social and political stability. The disadvantages are that French manufacturers find it hard to compete with the colossal organisations of the United States, of England, of Germany, and that accordingly progress is not so striking; yet it has been important.³

It is difficult for foreigners to realise the part which machinery has come to play in France. Many who in former days spent much time in devising new toys, now toil to invent new machines adapted to national needs. Visiting the mechanical part of the Paris Exposition of 1900

¹ Guyot, Yves, "Le collectivisme futur et le socialisme présent," *Journal des Economistes*, July, 1906, p. 8.

² There were 592,600 industrial establishments in 1896 and 616,100 in 1906, a gain of 23,500 in ten years. (Guyot, Yves, *ibid.*)

³ One of the great auxiliaries of manufacturing, coal, was extracted to the amount of 13,000,000 tons in 1870 and 38,500,000 in 1911. In the meantime the production of pig-iron increased 147 per cent, iron and steel 130 per cent, and the mining of iron-ore 517 per cent. The number of steam-engines rose from 27,088, with 336,000 horse-power, to 81,620, with 3,141,000 horse-power; a gain of 201 per cent for the engines and of 834 per cent for their potential capacity. From 1878 to 1911 the number of horse-power used in metallurgic industries rose from 102,000 to 559,000, and in textile manufacturing from 91,000 to 544,000. (*Annuaire statistique*, 1913.)

with Americans, the writer heard them again and again express their astonishment at the advance of the French in mechanical art. The greater activity of inventors is seen in the great increase of patents, trade marks, and deposited designs and models.¹ Though the principle of industrial agglomeration is not so widely spread as in the United States, France has her Fall River in Roubaix, her Pittsburg at Le Creusot, and numerous other centres where machinery is made and used upon a large scale. Some of the great metallurgic firms export machinery to every part of the world. One of them makes sixty tons of pig-iron in an hour. Provence has the largest and the best deposits in the world of bauxite² — so essential in the making of aluminum.

The ability to erect vast iron structures is not the sole possession of Germans, Englishmen, and Americans. The Eiffel Tower, the Suspension Bridge Gisclard in the *Pyrénées orientales*, the Viaduct of Gabarit in the department of Cantal,

1	1870	1911
Patents.....	3,029	13,971
Trade marks.....	1,175	16,805
Designs and models deposited.....	21,632	53,854

Annuaire statistique, 1913.

² Mineral for the making of aluminum.

Eiffel's superb iron bridge over the Douro River in Portugal, the iron bridge over the Red River in Indo-China, immense iron docks in the colonies, and the enormous guns made at Le Creusot — guns which became so renowned during the two Balkan Wars as well as in the present one — show that French metallurgic works are capable of great things undreamed of four decades ago. Frenchmen were among the first to use electric locomotives on their railroads. They have done works of engineering on their roads and their canals which amaze foreigners by their boldness of conception, their beauty of design, or their admirable execution. One of the colleagues of the writer, looking at photographs of the masonry of the new railroad in Madagascar, said: "We Americans have never done such superb work on a new railroad." Moreover, France was first in making submarine boats. Her place in aeronautics is such that inventors of dirigible balloons and of aeroplanes have gone to her for experiments and recognition. Her supremacy in the making of automobiles certainly lasted until the war.

A Paris house furnished all the apparatus for the great light-house of Bombay. England buys annually from France over 10,000,000 dollars' worth of finely wrought metallic works,

chiefly copper.¹ It is quite significant that French firms were asked to provide electric lighting for the London Exhibition of 1908.² From 1891 to 1906 the country exported machines, metallic objects, tools, small sea craft, automobiles, etc., so that the excess of exportations over importations increased from \$23,400,000 to \$94,600,000.³ French jewelry wrought with great artistic perfection is more and more appreciated in all the great centres of the civilised world. Works in gold, hall-marked by the government, increased 51 per cent from 1894 to 1906, those in silver 24 per cent. The exports of these increased 80 per cent for gold and 186 per cent for silver.⁴ M. d'Avenel speaks of a French manufacturer who makes more than one hundred and fifty tons of paper in a day.

Textile industries have undergone transformations of great importance. The hand-weaving of the Empire has largely been replaced by the power-loom. The hand-loom is used only for the weaving of samples or for very small orders which are more easily worked that way. In some places the power-loom, worked by electricity, is in the home of the weaver. The

¹ Bérard, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

³ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

² *Le Siècle*, Nov. 19, 1907.

⁴ *Annuaire statistique*.

cheap distribution of electric energy is now keeping the workmen at home. In small cities, and often in small villages, the baker makes his bread with electric kneading machines. The transformation of weaving by machine has not lowered the quality of the output; in fact the finest textile fabrics are so exquisite as to come nearer the decorative arts than to simple texture. France takes an ever larger part in the cutting of diamonds. The jewellers of Birmingham buy them in large quantities, and then sell them to the Anglo-Saxons all over the world.¹ The crystals of Baccarat, the beautiful plates of Saint Gobain, and the china of Limoges have never enjoyed a greater popularity at home and abroad. The *article du Jura* and the *article de Paris* are ever in greater demand.

The artistic traditions and environments, high ideals of professional workmanship, and the specific educational efforts of the Republic have kept up the old superiority. The few technical schools existing under the Empire have been remodelled and many new ones have been founded. The *Conservatoire national des arts et métiers* (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts), at once a laboratory of mechanical, physical, and chemical experiments, a patent

¹ Bérard, V., *La France et Guillaume II*, p. 42.,

office with a vast collection of models of inventors, and a museum of devices to prevent industrial accidents and improve industrial hygiene, has been made a great school of technology. In 1912 it had 2,205 students.¹ There is also the *Ecole centrale des arts et manufactures* (Central School of Arts and Manufactures), preparing engineers for all forms of industry as well as for public works, with 727 students.² Then come five national schools of arts and crafts, at Aix, Angers, Châlons, Cluny, and Lille, with 1,535 students.³ A school of this kind was also opened in Paris.

The purpose of these institutions is to train and improve overseers and manufacturers, keeping in view the character of the manufactures peculiar to the part of the country in which the school is situated. Thus the institution in Lille has a section devoted to spinning and weaving, while that of Paris has one giving special attention to electricity, industrial chemistry, and automobilism. There is the institution already referred to, the "National Practical School of Workmen and Overseers" of Chauny, and the schools of clock and watch making (*horlogerie*) in the eastern part of France to improve the per-

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

² *Ibid.*, 1913.


³ *Ibid.*, 1913.

sonnel in this branch of industry. In Armementières, Nantes, Vierzon and Voiron the national professional schools train workingmen for the position of overseers and managers in large establishments. Other industrial schools give various forms of industrial education. One of them, the *Ecole du livre*, teaches its students the best way to print a book, to illustrate it, and to bind it. This institution will bring the French book to a still higher place in the world. Seventy schools, fifty-seven for young men and thirteen for young women, are at once giving an industrial education, and teaching the best methods for disposing of the fruits of industry; they are called "Schools of Commerce and Industry." In 1912 they had 13,954 students.¹

The several great exhibitions in Paris, as well as those in the provinces, have also been efficient agents of industrial progress. This has been increased by the many-sided development of energy in other realms of the nation's life, as well as by a wider culture and a keener intelligence. Frenchmen are now conscious of their peculiar place in the economic life of the world. They recognise that their products are not so much for the masses as for the classes, though they work for both. They realise that their

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

well-being in a large measure depends upon the prosperity and richness of mankind which are developed by peace. Hence industrial and commercial considerations, independently of many others, make Frenchmen opposed to war.



CHAPTER III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE AND WEALTH

FRENCH commerce has above all become better organised. Under the Empire, the chambers of commerce were merely consultative, local advisory boards, hampered at every point by the government; but now they are unhindered and, what is more, they have become extremely numerous. Many have been founded in foreign countries, where they serve French interests. The government now co-operates with them, and has enlarged the State machinery to further the development of trade. In 1882 was established the Superior Council of Commerce, a board of commercial advisers with a large experience to help the same cause. In 1897 was organised in the Ministry of Commerce the National Foreign Trade Office, the design of which is to furnish merchants with all the data which they wish in regard to the opportunities of trade in any foreign country. Its work is

done by interviews, or by means of the *Moniteur officiel du commerce*.

In 1898 was instituted the organisation of Counsellors of Foreign Trade, which numbers now 1,400. These counsellors are Frenchmen established in other lands, who send valuable information to the home office. They also find positions for young Frenchmen in those countries, with the view of acquainting them with commercial conditions and methods. There were likewise created foreign commercial scholarships, devoted entirely to students preparing for industrial or commercial pursuits. The government has gone even further in creating the institution of *attachés commerciaux* in connection with embassies and legations. These *attachés* may prove a sign of the times, giving more place to trade questions than to military ones. Societies of commercial geography were organised in Paris, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Lyons, Lille, and Nancy.¹

Commercial schools have been multiplied, rendered more practical and less academic. Superior schools of commerce were developed or established in twelve of the most important cities of the country outside of the capital. The Commercial Institute of Paris, founded in 1884,

¹ Rambaud, *Histoire de la civilisation contemporaine en France*, p. 648.

is largely devoted to the preparation of young men for foreign trade. The School of High Commercial Studies, with an annual budget of \$80,000, is one of the best commercial institutions anywhere. The great extension of the study of political economy has aided the general apprehension of financial problems. Furthermore, the Republic has had the co-operation of remarkable financiers like Léon Say and Paul Leroy-Beaulieu,¹ who have done no little to call the attention of French democracy to its wasteful methods; and eminent economists who have done a great work of popular financial education. The press also contributed to the good results already pointed out. Of the 61 papers representing commerce, 39 were founded under the Republic, and of the 270 journalistic organs of finance, 177 were started since 1871.²

All these efforts must tell. A greater general intelligence, and a better professional training have done much toward the commercial and financial advance visible in so many directions. In gauging this gain we should remember that the French have not the advantage of Americans, with a new country of unlimited resources,

¹ *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 396.

² *Annuaire de la presse*, 1909, pp. 844 and 852.

and with methods which set aside all considerations of the future, who make a havoc of forests, exhaust arable lands, and pick here and there the best from their best mines. In France the forests are in a condition of steady improvement. Under the Republic they have increased to the extent of 1,150,000 acres.¹ The soil is rendered more and more fertile, while mines are worked with a care demanded by their relative poverty. France, so rich in many things, has certainly not been favoured in the matter of mines.²

Notwithstanding this the annual commerce has steadily increased and has more than doubled from 1869 to 1911. It is true that the Clearing-House was introduced after the foundation of the Republic, but its transactions have increased sixteen times from the first quinquennial reports. The Bank of France, which has been the bulwark of French finances, been a vast clearing-house for the country, done without compensation all the banking of the government, made free grants and important loans to the State, the bank, and the only bank, of emission for the whole country, is perhaps the best index possi-

¹ *L'Illustration*, Oct. 13, 1906.

² This must be qualified with the statement that the iron mines of Lorraine are revealing a greater richness and that North Africa has unusually large deposits of iron and phosphates.

ble of the nation's prosperity.¹ No institution of the kind has shown more foresight in preparing for the future or a wiser financial conservatism. It secured proportionally the greatest gold reserve of any such institution in the world. It has been sufficiently broad-minded to relieve other foreign institutions in times of need. Its rates of interest have, as a whole, been lower than those of other European banks. They were 5.71 per cent immediately after the War of 1870, descended to a point as low as 2 per cent in 1895, and were 3 per cent in 1911.²

Apart from this great financial institution, in many respects enjoying monopolies, there are five great banking institutions, not to speak of small banks, the *Crédit lyonnais*, the *Société générale*, the *Comptoir national d'escompte*, the *Crédit industriel et commercial*, and the *Société*

¹ FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF THE BANK OF FRANCE, IN
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

	1869	1911
Notes discounted.....	1,326	3,320
Average of unpaid notes.....	114	240
Cash and note transactions.....	5,800	13,680
Average gold reserve.....	238	1,480
Bank-notes in circulation.....	270	1,048
Deposits and payments.....	12,500	58,800
Average balance.....	69	107
Deposit transfers.....	8,680	54,300

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

marseillaise, large joint-stock corporations which receive deposits and make loans. By ingenious and plausible reasoning, M. Théry, editor of *L'économiste Européen*, in his admirable book, *Les progrès économiques de la France*, estimated that their total transactions must have been \$2,894,000,000 in 1891 and \$6,872,400,000 in 1907.¹ In fifteen years the funds intrusted to the Bank of France increased 61 per cent and the other institutions 177 per cent.² The annual income from national and foreign securities averaged \$327,099,000 during the period from 1884 to 1891, and from 1900 to 1907 it was \$427,376,000.³ The same writer infers that in twenty-five years a capital of \$2,278,000,000 has been added to these investments.

During the American panic of 1907 French industries were severely tried, but banking institutions were scarcely affected. The Bank of France did not hesitate then to help the Bank of England. Those who, like the writer, remember the heroic efforts of M. Thiers, after the war, to borrow money for the Republic at impossible rates, cannot but marvel on seeing that the once vanquished, isolated, mistrusted France had before the present war become, in some respects, the banker of the world. French citi-

¹ P. 287.² P. 289.³ P. 298.

zens own a large amount* of Russian, Turkish, Portuguese, and Spanish bonds apart from important investments in foreign stocks.¹

In 1907 M. Théry sets at seven and a quarter billion dollars French investments abroad.² A year later M. Alfred Neymarck, a most eminent economist, long president of the *Société de statistique*, valued them at six billion dollars.³ Averaging these two estimates, what progress is here evident as compared with two billions and a quarter during the last days of the Second Empire!⁴ That is a gain of nearly five billion dollars in less than two score years of republican régime.⁵ Let us add that French traits of foresight and prudence show themselves at this point; their investments are mostly in bonds or national rentes, while Englishmen give prominence to stocks.⁶ This makes French finances more stable than those of most other countries. Be that as it may, before the war France received annually from foreign securities \$400,000,000 of interest, and that in gold. Furthermore, this made rates of foreign exchange most favourable to the country receiving the funds.

¹ Delpech and Lamy, *Trente ans de république*, 1902, p. 57.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 306.

³ Guyot, Yves, *Le Siècle*, Dec. 8, 1908.

⁴ Théry, p. 304.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 306.

⁶ Guyot, Yves, *Le Siècle*, Oct. 13, 1908.

From 1892 to December 31, 1907, the stock of gold in France increased by \$785,800,000. Of this \$411,800,000 were coined into French money, \$224,000,000 were taken by the jewelry trade, and about \$148,000,000 in various forms and in various ways have been deposited in institutions.¹ This, according to the same writer, means, at least, that when France has paid all foreign countries for what she draws from them in return for what she sends to them, *i. e.*, after paying all that needs to be paid, she has received \$785,800,000 in gold, nearly one-fifth of the total production the world over during that time.² The wealth of the country, in stocks and securities of all kinds, which was half a billion dollars in 1851, five billion dollars in 1880, nearly twenty-two billions in 1900,³ was valued at twenty-seven billions in 1906.⁴

It is difficult to gauge accurately the nation's wealth, but innumerable data, singly or collectively, point to a great increase. The gain may be seen in the great advance which has taken place in the securities of the six great railroad companies of France, almost entirely owned by Frenchmen, as they are all guaranteed by the

¹ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 346.

² *Ibid.*

³ Avenel, Georges d', *Revue des Deux Mondes*, June 1, 1906, p. 651.

⁴ Guyot, Yves, *Le Siècle*, Oct. 13, 1908.

State.¹ The reason of this remarkable rise is the increased prosperity, and an ever-growing larger use of the national network of railroads. In sixteen years, from 1891 to 1907, their gross earnings were \$100,160,000.² The same thing might be said of the other popular channels of French investments outside of national bonds. Legacies have risen from \$913,400,000 in 1869 to \$1,387,800,000 in 1907. During the period elapsing from 1884 to 1891 the average estate was \$1,276, and from 1899 to 1906 it reached \$1,461.³ Gauged by the assessors' lists, which are always below the real valuation, the national wealth has quadrupled in seventy-five years. It was \$27,200,000,000 in 1869 and \$40,800,000,000 in 1904. As a matter of fact, as the Comte Georges d'Avenel puts it, it is about \$46,800,000,000. It has increased one-half under the

¹ ADVANCE IN RAILROAD SECURITIES

	STOCKS		BONDS	
	1871	1911	1871	1911
Est.	95	178	57	96
Paris-Lyon-Méditerranée.....	170	235	59	83
Midi.....	122	209	58	83
Nord.....	153	316	61	84
Orléans.....	163	248	59	83
Ouest.....	101	185	58	84

Annuaire statistique, 1913.

² Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 225.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 324.

Republic.¹ M. Théry reaches nearly the same conclusion after basing his calculations upon the increased values of legacies.² Unfortunately we know only too well that assessors in every country fail to see all taxable property, and that in view of the inheritance tax heirs often come short of making an accurate report of the real wealth inherited.

With the progress of wealth has also come a better distribution of it than in most countries. The real estate is in the hands of 8,454,000 owners. There are not five persons in France owning 25,000 acres of land, while in Hungary there are more than 200. One could not find one man in France with an income of \$150,000 from land, while in Great Britain there are at least 175.³ We have shown that farming property is more and more widely distributed, and, as the friends of large estates put it, it is increasingly *morcelée* (parcelled). In the *Journal des Economistes*⁴ Yves Guyot asserts that there are more than nine persons in ten who are directly or indirectly owners of real estate. In his paper, already referred to, *Le collectivisme futur et le socialisme présent*, he sets it at twelve-

¹ *Revue des Deux Mondes*, June 1, 1906, p. 616.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 327.

³ Avenel, *Les Français de mon temps*, p. 260.

⁴ July 15, 1906, p. 8.

thirteenths of the population. The same conclusion is forced upon us by the unusually wide distribution of inheritances. Those above \$1,000,000 scarcely exceed 6 per cent of the whole. Four-fifths are made up of small and moderate amounts.

The records of savings-banks point to the same facts. From 1872 to 1900 the number of depositors increased three times, and the amount deposited five times.¹ From 2,130,000 in 1869,² notwithstanding stringent laws forbidding the possession of two bank-books, and bringing down the maximum of deposits from \$400 to \$300, in 1911 there were 14,400,000 bank-books. The deposits had risen from \$142,000,000 to \$1,125,000,000.³ It must be stated also that, while the savings-banks encourage thrift, they have rendered a great service to the country by putting into circulation large sums which, before the Republic, remained unproductive in the "old stockings" of the lower classes.⁴ Furthermore, they have taught the people the value of national bonds and State-guaranteed securities as safe investments.

According to M. A. Neymarck, the people own \$4,600,000,000 worth of stocks and bonds of

¹ Delpech and Lamy, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

³ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

⁴ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 294.

the six great railroad companies of the country, and \$5,200,000,000 of French *rentes*, held in small quantities.¹ Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu, who lost his life in the war, the author of one of the ablest books in French on the United States,² said in Parliament that 17,000 out of the 31,000 stockholders of the Bank of France own only one or two shares.³ The present state of national finance is satisfactory, not because it has always been guided by superior wisdom—though wisdom there has been—but because the spirit of thrift and economy has never been more cultivated or more potent. It is one of the great national virtues.

The reactionaries may oppose the Republic, but they should oppose it fairly, intelligently; and this they have not done. In choosing an issue, they have often selected the most unfavourable to them, namely, the financial condition of the land. They have circulated fables about the ruin of public credit, and more than once have endeavoured to start runs upon savings-banks. The finances of the Republic are not beyond criticism—where is there a democratic government above reproach in that respect? Yet even here we are forced by facts to find

¹ *L'Illustration*, Jan. 3, 1905.

² *Les Etats-Unis au XX^e siècle*.

³ *Chambre des députés*, Feb. 16, 1909.

much that is creditable to Republican financial administration. The *Revue des Deux Mondes*, all along a stern censor of the Republic, has been forced to recognise that it "has mercilessly dropped any man whose reputation was soiled with financial intriguing either on behalf of himself or of his relatives."¹ The Republicans have gone to the very bottom of the Panama corruption, and punished the offenders with a severity from which Americans and British in similar instances have always shrunk.

The financial legacies from the past were very heavy. Thus the budget for 1910, as first proposed by the Minister of Finances, amounted to \$805,400,000; but of that \$13,800,000 were devoted to pay the pensions of Catholic priests, and for squaring accounts as well as estimates. The sum of \$300,800,000 represented pensions, interest, and annuities on the national debt. The largeness of this sum came, in a great measure, from the Franco-Prussian War, and from imperative national work, performed by the Republic, which should have been done by former governments. Seeing the extent to which France was backward as compared with other nations, the Republicans attempted to re-

¹ Nov. 1, 1900, p. 230.

gain time by a multitude of works of national utility.

In this budget \$252,200,000 were allotted to the army, the navy, and the work of colonial defence. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Republic had spent at least \$5,000,000,000 to reorganise the military and the naval forces of the country.¹ When all the great powers of Europe were enlarging their armaments, France, though following afar off, could not but act likewise. In no country were those expenses voted to such an extent under the sense of a merciless national necessity. To the work of education were allowed \$56,200,000; to curtail this sum would have provoked a revolution; \$60,800,000 were devoted to the important postal, telegraphic, and telephonic service—a sum compensated for by large returns; \$49,000,000 went to public works—a small sum to keep in good condition the extensive system of French roads and other works of national utility. A sum of nearly \$75,000,000 was the comparatively small amount left for other national services.²

The number of functionaries has increased, but the state machinery does a national work several times larger. The improvements that

¹ Neymarck, A., *Trente ans de finances*, p. 3.

² *Le Temps*, Sept. 8, 1909.

were made and the new tasks performed demanded a new and a larger civil service.¹ Hence the increase of public officials for which Republicans have been so constantly taken to task.² Such being the case, there is nothing abnormal either in the swelling of the number of public servants from 285,000 in 1873 to 440,000 in 1906, or in the increment of expense from \$68,000,000 to \$140,000,000.³

Taxation has naturally increased at pretty nearly the same rate as wealth. In a paper before the *Société d'économie politique* of Paris M. Neymarck has shown that the cost of collecting the taxes has diminished while the methods have

¹ Some American papers have repeated the criticisms of French Reactionaries about the large number of men in the civil service, but they did this by including army officers and state teachers in their lists.

² In a village well known to the writer, a village whose population has scarcely varied since 1870, there were then four teachers, and one of them was town clerk; now there are twelve, not to speak of two secularised nuns in the parochial school. The village has a regular town clerk, who is also librarian. Under the Republic an important highway service has been created. This demanded the labours of several men for repairs. A letter-carrier spent then three or four hours a day to distribute a score or two of letters, and once a week a dozen weekly papers. Now there is a regular post-office, with a savings department, telegraph and telephone with three resident women employees, not to speak of several letter-carriers who distribute letters and papers in as large a quantity as they would in a busy American town of the same size. Money-orders, which under the Empire could be sent only from the *chef-lieu de canton*, are very numerous at this office, as there is no bank in the community. The telegraph and the telephone do a large business, while the savings-bank department has become quite important. The two *gardes champêtres* have scarcely changed their functions. This remarkable creation and extension of service entailed a corresponding increase in the number of employees.

³ *Le Siècle*, May 30, 1909.

grown gentler.¹ Again, the budget had to be increased so as to compensate for services formerly paid by the public, but now free. Under the Empire a fee was required in most of the common schools. Taxes have been removed from salt, soap, oils, paper, and hygienic drinks. Letter postage has been reduced from five to two cents. There has been a similar reduction for registered letters, money-orders, telegrams, and other postal services. Newspapers have benefited by an even greater diminution of rates. Express packages and judiciary formalities have been favoured in a similar manner.

Furthermore, French legislators have distributed taxes more equitably. But the tendency of recent years has been to tax revenue with cumulative rates and to proportion the tax to the ability to meet it. After considering all the extenuating circumstances for congested budgets, there is no hiding of the fact that Socialists have been singularly indifferent to sound finance. There is further the depressing fact that the national debt is increasing and that in 1911 it had reached \$7,280,000,000.² Parallel with this is the reassuring consideration that public confidence has grown with the debt, as we may see from the gradual decrease

¹ *L'Illustration*, May 25, 1901.

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

of interest. French *rentes*, bonds, yielded 5.4 per cent of interest in 1872, 3.55 in 1890, and 2.98 in 1901. In 1871 London bankers were willing to advance money to M. Thiers at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.¹ In June of the same year, 3-per-cent bonds were quoted at 53.8, and on November 30, 1901, at 101.² Even during the panic of 1907 they never fell below 95.

But why was it that the Republic could borrow money at such low rates when the national debt was increasing? Was it because of blind patriotic feelings? In the first place, the people knew that, when an expense is incurred, the budget makes provisions for its payment; that much of the national debt was contracted by measures of utility which would increase the people's wealth and revenue, and that, whatever befalls, the nation always pays its debts. This was seen at the beginning of the Republic, when some politicians proposed not to honour the loan which Gambetta had secured without adequate warrant during the war. The members of the Assembly set aside the question of legal form, and asked if the funds had been used for the country. The affirmative answer was at once followed with the order to pay.

¹ Taine, *ibid.*, p. 124.

² Neymarck, paper read before the *Société d'économie politique: Trente années financières*; and *Annuaire statistique*.

Before many years the French people will come into possession of the greater part of the railroads of the country. In case the government wishes to sell them, then the whole would more than cancel the national obligations; and if it preferred to operate them, they would remain good collateral assets. Again, an important feature of this debt, which makes it distinct from that of some European powers, is that it is held by Frenchmen. The interest paid does not drain the country of so much, but goes to multitudes of citizens who thereby feel more solicitude for the good order and prosperity of the country. The coupons of French *rentes* are static forces on the side of good government.

CHAPTER IV

THE NEW EDUCATION IN THE NEW LIFE

IT is in the realm of education that we see the greatest and the most abiding changes under the Republic. People have become enthusiastic in this direction. The old, pious doctrine of the social utility of ignorance has been relegated to the domain of mischievous superstitions. Nothing is further from popular anxiety than Renan's fear of "the day for human society when light has penetrated into all its strata."¹ After the Franco-Prussian War Frenchmen were directed by the thought that it was "the school-teacher who had won at Sedan," and that it was by education that France could regain her position in the world.

Led by this conviction, the nation shrank from no sacrifice. Beautiful school-houses, spitefully called *palais scolaires* by the Reactionaries, have been erected in the villages, *lycées* and college buildings in the cities. At one session, on July

¹ *Discours et conférences*, 1887, p. 229.

3, 1880, after extensive study of the question, the Parliament voted that twenty-seven *lycées* be built.¹ In important centres fine edifices have been constructed for higher education. Twenty-five thousand school-houses have been built or rebuilt, to which were devoted no less than \$160,000,000.² From 1875 to 1905 the number of primary schools increased from 71,000 to 82,488, the number of teachers from 110,000 to 157,000, and the pupils from 4,716,000 to 5,654,794.³ In thirty-three years the illiterate have fallen from 18.03 per cent to 4.26 per cent. Apart from this there is a vast effort made to keep pupils in touch with the schools after they leave them. The associations which are formed, called *petites A.*, number 6,476. The school *patronages*, looking also after former pupils, number 2,255. During the year 1908-1909 the number of evening schools was 31,637, while 74,869 persons gave their labours mostly without compensation.⁴ The day of dirty school-houses and of giving children different instruction according to their poverty or wealth is gone.⁵ There is no longer the *banc des pauvres* and the *banc des riches*, as they existed in some towns. At-

¹ Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 166.

² Delpech and Lamy, *op. cit.*, p. 21.

³ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

⁴ Petit, Edouard, *Rapport sur l'éducation populaire en 1908-1909*.

⁵ Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 144.

tendance at school has been made compulsory and tuition free.

The Republic recognises the birthright of every child to a common education, and everything is done to help him secure it. If he is prevented from attending school because he is shoeless or because he has inadequate food, the town is bound to provide the imperative needs. The State more and more compels parents to send their children to school, and society to provide for their most essential wants. As a good many children remained outside of this education because of their mental deficiencies, the government provided for the special instruction of abnormal and backward pupils.

The teaching itself, but imperfectly accessible to the masses under the Empire, has been raised from scant ability to read and write, a little arithmetic, history, and the catechism to a standard equal to the best in any country. The branches taught are morals and civics, reading and writing French, elements of French literature, geography, history, elementary principles of law and of political economy, drawing, modelling, music.¹ An important innovation is that of *l'art à l'école*,² or art teaching in common

¹ Vuibert, *Annuaire de la jeunesse*.

² An interesting society, *Société nationale de l'art à l'école*, is doing much for this valuable training. Its programme is: "*L'école saine*,

schools, whereby is cultivated the love of beauty so especially needed by the masses. The moral teaching, which we discuss at length elsewhere,¹ exerts a strong influence upon the population. The schools have been made non-sectarian, but not godless, as affirmed in the denunciatory reports of the clergy, for whom a godless school is one in which they do not rule.

This education also has been so decidedly differentiated as to adapt it better to the practical every-day life of French youth. There have been opened schools of apprenticeship, normal schools of cutting and fitting for girls, and important professional schools.² There have been founded or transformed more than three hundred schools of design and decorative art. In Paris these schools contribute greatly to the superiority of taste and form visible in most of the fine goods made in that city. In many places the technical character of the schools is determined by local industries. In Roubaix the institution is correlated with weaving, in Aubusson (Creuse) with tapestry, in Limoges with ceramics, in Nice with domestic decorations, in

aérée, rationnellement construite et meublée, attrayante et ornée. Formation du goût par le décor; initiation de l'enfant à la beauté des lignes, des couleurs, des formes, des mouvements, et des sons."

¹ See Chap. XI.

² Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 160. See also *New England Magazine*, July, 1900, p. 588, "What France does for Education."

Rennes with sculpture, and in Calais with lace. More than 100,000 pupils attend these schools.¹

The secondary schools have not undergone such a profound transformation as the others, but, as a whole, they have never been better or more numerous. The pupils have increased from 129,000 to 195,000.² The military and the monastic spirit, so prominent in them under the Empire, has lost much of its power. Twenty years ago the *proviseur* of one of the finest *lycées* in Paris told the writer that he, the *proviseur*, was in his institution like a colonel at the head of his regiment. No Paris *lycée* director would use such language now. The monachal tendency to isolate the pupil from home and society is growing less. The former antithesis between school and life is melting away before pedagogic intelligence, and the school tends to become life. The best school is not only the one in which the students stand high at examinations, but the one in which they lead the best life.

One may say that in a certain way France is fast realising the educational ideal of Victor Hugo, more than half a century ago. "Primary school imposed upon all and the secondary

¹ Trouillot, *Pour l'idée laïque*, p. 253.

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

school offered to all.”¹ This purpose of the nation and of educators to bring education closer to life has led them to recast their methods, with results disappointing to many, but above all to reformers. As most of them were State professors, it followed that they were the severest censors of their own work. The representatives of sectarian institutions² find their own schools perfect, but this only shows the greater independence and the higher pedagogical ideals of the secular masters. The curricula, without breaking all connection with Latin and Greek, have been thoroughly modernised, and German, as well as English, has now an important place. Recognising the disciplinary and cultural value of the ancient classical languages, educators have made it possible for students prepared in modern languages to acquire the others in the latter part of their course. Above all, the national vernacular must be taught first, and every other form of training must help to improve it and to keep it first. Sciences have a place that is growing more and more absorbing. Philosophy, which was scarcely taught at all during the Empire, is required for all complete secondary studies.

¹ *Les Misérables*, vol. VII, p. 30.

² See Du Lac, R. P., *Jésuites*, p. 227.

While much has been done for young men in this particular field, a new era has also been opened for young women. Some noble attempts to provide higher education for them by Minister Duruy had relatively failed, because of the opposition of the bishops. Jules Ferry placed the whole matter upon a broad educational basis.¹ This movement has now acquired considerable momentum. The reasonableness of the higher education of women is so thoroughly accepted that no one discusses it now, and its former opponents impart it in their own institutions. In 1881 there were but few secondary schools for women; in 1906 there were 41 *lycées* and 68 other institutions giving to women a partial secondary education. The attendance has increased from 4,500 to 32,500. In 1909 3,500 young women had matriculated in the universities of the land.² Meanwhile it was recognised that women would be efficient for the moral teaching of boys.³ Numerous schools for women were created to prepare an efficient corps of primary teachers, and one was established at

¹ When the question was debated in Parliament amidst the unreasonable opposition of conservatives, Ferry spoke of women who asked him the questions: "But what is the use of all this learning? What is it for? . . ." He continued: "I could answer, 'To raise your children,' and it would be a good answer, though trivial, but I prefer to say, 'To raise your husbands.'" (Rimbaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 135.)

² *Le Siècle*, March 30, 1909.

³ *L'éducation morale dans l'université*, 1901, p. 73.

Sèvres to give the professors of secondary institutions for girls the high training which they need. In speaking of this institution we must put away from our thought the peculiar education associated with normal schools in this country. Sèvres lacks only the classics to make its work the best given to women anywhere. Only candidates of great ability, recruited from all parts of France, may be admitted into the institution after the severest tests. It is not a common distinction to be a *Sévrienne*.

We must, perhaps, look to the realm of superior education for the most marked advance. Freed from clerical interference, which was formerly a disturbing force at every point, it is conducted by a large body of men who have won a conspicuous place in the scientific world. The progress may be inferred from the comparative numbers of chairs, of students, and of degrees.¹ The two beautiful volumes published

¹ SUPERIOR EDUCATION

	1871	1876	1889	1905	1906
Chairs in universities.....	....	625	1,211	.....	.....
Students in medicine.....	....	3,868	6,455	.....	.....
Students in science.....	....	121	1,355	.....	.....
Students in philosophy and literature.....	....	138	2,358	.....	.....
Total number of students....	....	6,000	....	.....	35,670
Degrees granted.....	8,936	....	....	11,900	.....
in medicine.....	308	....	....	1,101	.....
in letters, science, and law..	73	....	....	560	.....

by the French government on the occasion of the San Francisco Exposition, *La science française*, will be an astounding revelation to most readers of what France has done for scientific progress. The thirty-four papers by thirty-four distinguished scientists, dealing with French contributions to science, the associations that further it, and the scientific books and periodicals, of which there is a large number, have a greater significance when one remembers that the foremost contributors to this advance are university professors. These men have created an atmosphere of scientific enthusiasm and of scientific endeavour which has drawn from the institutions their best men as earnest searchers.

The municipalities and the nation have nobly contributed to this work. In 1907 the municipal council of Paris voted to support nine chairs of higher learning in the city, to say nothing of other encouragements given to different forms of scientific work. Other cities have voted important sums to encourage local universities. Individuals have come forward with generous gifts, while the Parliament has been most constant in its liberal support. The old institutions have been renovated and as a rule improved, though, by exception, we deplore the transformation, nay, the destruction, of the celebrated

Ecole normale supérieure, the *Alma mater* of so many famous men, like Jules Simon, Gaston Boissier, Taine, and Gabriel Monod. However, every other institution took on a new life. That was particularly the case with the Sorbonne, foremost among the greatest universities of the world. The Museum began to increase the service of its chairs and vast collections for the study of the natural sciences. The *Collège de France*, the vanguard of French science, has evolved and perfected the scope of its great work. It has become "a laboratory ceaselessly in a state of evolution,"¹ dealing with the newer aspects of sciences. Lately the purpose of its chairs was no longer bound to one subject, but the chair is named and devoted to the subject in which some great investigator has attained conspicuous scientific results. The aim is not so much the man for the chair as the chair that will permit the great scientist to find the highest use of his attainments.

New institutions have been created, some of which constitute absolutely new departures, such as the Practical School of High Studies of the Sorbonne, the Sèvres School for Women, the School of High Social Studies, the College of Social Sciences, the School of the Louvre, the

¹ Babelon, E., *La Revue*, July 29, 1911, p. 578.

Thiers Foundation, the National Agronomic Institute, the Colonial School, the School of Physics and Industrial Chemistry, the Pasteur Institute of Paris, the Pasteur Institute of Lille, the Free School of Political Sciences, the Social Museum, the Pedagogical Museum, the School of Anthropology, the School of High Commercial Studies, etc. There is being organised an institute for the study of radium and various radiations which, on the physical side, will be affiliated with the Faculty of Sciences and on the biological side with the Pasteur Institute. Even in Algiers institutions have been founded with the view of making there, sooner or later, a great African university and a great African academy. A law was passed during the last days of 1889 to create this university. By the side of the celebrated French art schools of Rome and of Athens, there were established schools of history and of archæology, not to speak of kindred institutions at Cairo, in Indo-China, or in Tunis.

One of the most fruitful steps for the advance of higher learning has been the enlargement of the National Library with greatly increased facilities for research. The museums of Paris and, to some extent, of the provinces, have been increased and multiplied. The Louvre has been

enriched by grants from the government, by the co-operation of the *Société des amis du Louvre*, and by large gifts of individuals. The legacy of M. Chauchard will attain a value of at least \$8,000,000. Individuals have created the establishments known as the Cernushi, Guimet, de Caen, Galliéra, and Gustave Moreau museums. Recently was founded the Museum of Decorative Arts. Dutuit gave a collection worth many millions which, elsewhere than in Paris, would be called a museum. Broca left materials for the Museum of Anthropology, and Count de Chambrun made possible the accumulation of data bearing upon the social question at the Social Museum. Equally important is the Pedagogic Museum, where are centred all data needed by teachers. To the number of these institutions should be added the Museum of Comparative Sculpture, the Museum of Ethnography, the Carnavalet Museum, the Colonial Museum, the Artillery Museum, the Museum of the Palace of Justice, etc. All these, in their own way, are potent agencies of national education.

Paris has not been alone in this direction, for museums have sprung up everywhere in large centres. The Guimet Museum, a museum of the religions of the Far East, was started in Lyons,

though later on transported to Paris. The Duc d'Aumale gave his property of Chantilly to the French Institute so that there his rich collections may be admired in the Musée Condé. In Arles, the poet Mistral founded the Arlesian Museum, devoted to relics and mementos of Provençal life. A local society interested in its provincial past founded the admirable museum, the Vieux-Honfleur,¹ in Honfleur. In Bayonne was inaugurated the *Musée Bonnat*. M. Hector-Depasse organised the *Société du musée cantonal de Fresnay-sur-Sarthe*. M. Jules Lambart instituted also a museum in Doullens (Somme). It would be tedious to mention all that has been done, both by individuals and by the government, in creating these foundations, instructive by what they contain as well as by the educational work done in them.

Among the most important agencies have been those of laboratories, to which we refer more fully later on, of scientific missions, of explorations in connection with the Ministry of Public Instruction. An achievement second to none has been the revival of old universities, and the creation of new ones. This is bound to raise the general level of life all over the country. It is also a step forward in the direction of educa-

¹ *La Revue*, Sept. 25, 1909.

tional decentralisation so much needed, a step in keeping with the new spirit of the teachers. No one can now question the moral superiority of these men. In his book, *Le malaise de la démocratie*, so severe against contemporary France, M. Gaston Deschamps says: "Recent statistics place the teaching body in the first rank of public morality."¹ The same thing might be said of their open-mindedness. They seem ultra modernists to the conservatives, and conservatives to the ultra radicals; but the truth is that they are live, progressive men who, as a whole, would do great credit to any professional class in the country.

One striking change in the situation is the greater freedom of the educator. He is no longer an adjunct of the priest, though now by an unfortunate, yet natural, reaction he has become too often his antagonist. Under the Empire the priest represented the greatest directing force in the lives of individuals; now it is the teacher. It is to be deprecated that both stand for different ideals which in their own eyes are mutually exclusive. In the conflict, the teachers are no longer isolated among themselves. To the united front of the clergy they oppose the body of teachers. One of their organisations,

¹ P. 256.

the *Fédération des amicales d'instituteurs*, has 96,000 members.¹ Another is the *Ligue de l'enseignement*. This agency, though founded in the last days of the Empire, attained no great development until the Republic. It has federated some 4,000 independent societies, with 600,000 members, the purpose of which is to advance and defend, if need be, free popular republican education. The more intense the attacks of the Clericals, the greater the sense of solidarity which binds the teachers. They meet on the occasion of the *conférences pédagogiques*, when they compare experiences.² There have been also instituted the National Pedagogic Congresses, in which are discussed all the problems of education by those who know its conditions and difficulties. French teachers, though poorly prepared for this by the Empire, have learned to conduct these meetings with ability, and generally with becoming dignity. Time will show whether or no they will avoid an alliance with socialism, which, in our opinion, would be baneful. The organised educators of a country should not formally or otherwise identify themselves with any one party. The aspirations of some of them to form trades-unions, and identify themselves with the militant labour organisa-

¹ *Le Siècle*, April 19, 1909.

² Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 160.

tions of the country, would be deplorable for the best interests of schools.

The administration of education also has been transformed. The reign of educational arbitrariness, though not ended, has been singularly limited. The teachers are no longer the mutes who, under the Empire, accepted superior decisions concerning them with silence and awe. They cannot be dismissed without a hearing from the *conseils académiques*, the members of which, instead of being appointed by the minister, are now elected by their colleagues. The Superior Council of the Ministry of Public Instruction has been reformed and also made elective. Its members are not raised to this high position because they are bishops or pastors, but because they are foremost among the educators of the country. The whole force of education is no longer the machine which led a minister of Napoleon III to say that by looking at his watch he could know what was taught, at that very moment, in any school of the country. It has become an organism in touch with the needs of Frenchmen. In it we see traces of the influence of such well-known educators as Gréard, Liard, Bréal, Croiset, Lavissee, Pécaut, and others who had a keen understanding of the stupendous task before them.

In appreciating the educational record of the Republic one should remember that results have been accomplished notwithstanding an opposition which was constant. So conscious were the legislators of the great needs in this realm that they consented to large requests for funds made by the friends of learning. Already in 1888 M. R. Fernandez, Mexican ambassador in Paris, said that the budget of education was twelve times that of the reign of Louis-Philippe, and five times that of the Empire.¹ It was \$4,800,000 in 1870 and \$59,336,000 in 1911.² These figures do not include local appropriations, the sacrifices made for new buildings, nor the extensive gifts of Catholics to sustain their universities in Paris, Lille, Angers, and Lyons, the expenses of their boarding (*collèges*) and parochial schools.

We differ absolutely from Catholics in their ideals of teaching as well as in their perpetual aim to control the national education; but we cannot fail to recognise the importance of their colossal work, or that of Protestants. Both have tended to check a certain uniformity in the State educational machinery. Among the best allied forces of education is the work of the *Société pour l'instruction élémentaire*, of the *As-*

¹ *La France actuelle*, 1888, p. 405.

² *Le Temps*, Nov. 23, 1909.

sociation polytechnique, and of the *Association philotechnique*. In 1875 was organised the *Union française de la jeunesse* to combine elementary education and professional training. The *Alliance française* helps and sustains schools in every part of the world, and gives, in various parts of France — and largely in Paris — instruction in the French language to foreigners. The *Société d'enseignement moderne*, also founded under the Republic, has many courses of commercial, industrial, literary, and artistic education. There are other associations with the same end in view. Some French periodicals, apart from their direct influence by their reading matter, have done and are doing educational work. The *Revue générale des Sciences* organises annual scientific cruises; *La Revue hebdomadaire*, *Les Annales politiques et littéraires*, and *Foi et vie* have courses of lectures of great value. Lectures for the masses with various purposes, but of some educational value, are given everywhere.

With all this, we must not forget a large body of pedagogic literature which embraces almost every aspect of this great work of national training and bears in mind the experience of other nations performing a similar task. Philosophers, sociologists, physiologists, and, above all, psychologists have brought their contribu-

tions to this work. The books on pedagogics have been enriched and deepened thereby. Six important periodical publications, among others, are real educational levers, the *Revue pédagogique*, now in its thirty-eighth year; the *Revue internationale de l'enseignement*, in its thirty-fifth year; the *Revue universitaire*, now in its twenty-fourth year; the *Bulletin de la Société libre pour l'étude psychologique de l'enfant*; *L'Education*, and *L'Année pédagogique* — all were founded under the Republic.¹

What has been changed more than all else is the spirit of this education. It is no longer the storing of the mind with abstract formulæ and traditional ideas, the continuance of the old neo-monastic ideal, the *a priori* distrust of the child, the gloomy theory of a penitential education. It is the free, cheerful development of the child along the line of experience and reason, respecting and trusting his undeveloped powers. Proceeding from the concrete to the abstract, and from examples to generalisations, it embodies all the best suggestions of psychologists, like Ribot and Binet, as well as those of the great contemporary educators. Its aim is no longer knowledge but the possession of what Fouillée calls *idées-forces*, which translate them-

¹ *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 76.

selves into lives and characters. We do not ignore the fact that much of the old form of teaching is yet only too common, but it becomes more and more dispelled by the new ideals. When we survey the work done in this field we find ourselves confronted with one of the greatest enterprises of education in our time. If we look for one of the great determinants of progress in any domain — agriculture, industry, commerce, art, science, philosophy, philanthropy, and even religion — we find it everywhere in the school.

CHAPTER V

CHANGES IN LITERATURE, ART, AND PHILOSOPHY

THERE has always been a closer relation between education and letters in France than in other countries, and hence from the achievements already noted in one realm we may expect similar progress in the other. The literary history of the country during the last thirty years would compare favourably with the most famous period of the same duration in the past. The characteristic traits of this literature have been more truth, more ideas, a closer touch with life, fewer abstractions, more facts, a less sonorous, but more real, love of humanity. It has stood less for the classes and more for the masses. It has become more democratic, even in the hands of aristocratic writers. The pessimistic strain in much of it is a transient literary fashion rather than the embodiment of national views of life. The departments of literature have been so differentiated as to produce a greater variety than ever before, and their rep-

representatives have been superior as real men and women.

Criticism, without being less æsthetic, has become more potent by being more sociological and more philosophical. It has become rich in men of merit and of originality. Scherer belongs to the Republic as much as, if not even more than, to the Empire which was distinguished by that "prince of critics," Sainte-Beuve. Brunetière, Lemaître, Sarcey, Bourget, Faguet, Anatole France, Pellissier, Larroumet, Rod, and de Vogüé constitute a group of critical intelligence exerting its many-sided influence over a much wider range and superior to any which could have been dreamed of under Napoleon III. Instead of the literary formal æsthetic judgment of a previous period, it has tended more and more to be the criticism of life, of the forces that make for life and their expression in literature.

Sardou, de Bornier, Coppée, and Rostand have given a new splendour to the historical drama. Dumas fils, de Curel, Paul Hervieu, Brieux, Lavedan, and Bernstein have plays of unusual power, with moral lessons which lift them above the realm of amusement and make them potent social forces. These men have written plays of singular originality, strong psychological and

moral analysis, with an ethical purpose which is new. The lighter forms of the drama were not richer in grace, in fancy, in wit, or in unconscious immorality during the Second Empire.

The lyric muse has more than held her own; in fact one may say that there has been a revival of poetry in the country. Victor Hugo gave his last songs under the Republic. Then there are the works of de Hérédia, Coppée, Dorchain, and, above all, those of Sully Prudhomme, one of the greatest poets of France. It is not insignificant that he was the first man of letters to receive the Nobel prize. Even the other poets, Verlaine, Jean Lahor, de Rénier, and many others, besides doing much creditable work, have added new stops to the organ of French poetry. The French Academy has never crowned so many poets as under the Republic. An anthology of contemporary French poetry,¹ published in 1906, gives extracts from 240 poets. It is true that all did not live during the Republic and all are not French citizens, but there are in this work omissions enough, if given, to sustain the opinion that at least 240 French poets have, of recent years, written poetry deemed worthy, by a leading Paris professor, to be represented in extracts intended for schools. It is a significant fact

¹ Walch, G., *Anthologie des poètes contemporains*, 1906.

that in June, 1909, there was given in Paris a public poetical competition of the best poems of the year. The organisation of this festival of the muses was very deficient, but the event in itself is an index of genuine interest in poetry.

In fiction, Daudet, Loti, Rod, Bourget, Anatole France, Maupassant, Theuriet, Bordeaux, Barrès, Bazin, Zola, Huysmans, de Vogüé, and Jules Verne would, as a band, compare favourably with any other group of French novelists at any period in the history of their country. Under them, the French novel has evolved in almost every direction, becoming at once more idealistic in spirit and more realistic in substance. While as a whole untrue to French life, it has come nearer to it; and it is, to-day, a great agent for the distribution of all forms of knowledge to the masses, a vehicle for the discussion of all possible questions, and a great sociological force. During the Empire, with notable exceptions, it was an admirable toy; now it has become a potent social tool.

Political oratory, as brilliant as, and more solid than during the preceding reign, may point with pride to Gambetta, Léon Say, Challemel-Lacour, de Mun, Jaurès, Deschanel, and Briand. While these men are still largely inspired by the great French traditional oratory, one that lays

especial stress upon the æsthetic side of public speaking and delights in Ciceronian periods, a new form of public eloquence has appeared which is the simple, straightforward voice of the masses of the nation. Judicial eloquence has been signally represented by Rousse, Waldeck-Rousseau, Bétolaud, and Labori. Academic eloquence, either in the universities or at the French Institute, has rivalled its best days by the elevated discourses of Lavissee, of Brunetière, of Gaston Boissier, of Renan, and of several others. The Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish pulpits have never attained such a high level; great orators are not common, but they have never been so. Simple, popular public speaking, found now in every quarter of French society, and voicing every popular interest, is a child of the Republic.

A whole literature, able and wholesome, has been devoted to the artistic and picturesque history of the country. Essays are very numerous. The literary productions of reviews have become absorbing in France as in other countries. Corporate institutions give increasing encouragement to literature. The prizes of the French Academy have increased to such a degree that not infrequently the "Immortals" have found themselves embarrassed to dispose of them.

Last year these prizes were distributed to the families of the many writers who fell at the front in defending their country. There has also been founded the De Goncourt Academy, with the same end in view, though with different methods from those of the illustrious company of the Palais Mazarin. A society of eminent French women gives an annual prize to a woman writer. It would be impossible to enumerate the new encouragements given by different societies to various *littérateurs*, not to speak of the *Prix littéraire de Rome*, founded nine years ago by the government to enable annually a young writer to travel. Among other incentives to writers is the prestige which they enjoy. As soon as they have won distinction they become the lions of French Salons. They have become the truly privileged men of French society.

In the domain of fine arts the success of the great exhibitions and the Salons have been eloquent refutations of former aristocratic taunts that a democracy is doomed to an inferior art. Here again the Republic introduced the principle of liberty by allowing artists to organise their Salon themselves. When a second one was founded, the same policy was followed. The government has done nobly. In every direction it has sustained efforts to lift and popularise

art. The budget of Fine Arts has increased 133 per cent. In 1874 was organised in the Ministry of Public Instruction the *Commission de l'inventaire général des richesses d'art de la France*,¹ whose work is still going on. Apparently few artistic and historical mementos of the past have escaped its researches. Never before was so much done anywhere to restore and save old monuments, — the Mont St. Michel, the Roman arenas of the south, Roman gates, mediæval and Renaissance castles, like those of Pierrefonds and Azay-le-Rideau, historic town halls, old museums, cathedrals all over the country, churches, and chapels.

It would take a volume to set forth the work done to bring out the real beauty of the old ecclesiastical monuments, or at times to protect them from a clergy having no sense of their æsthetic worth. The renowned châteaux have been made repositories of great art treasures, where they now may be admired by every one. The Duc d'Aumale made the French Academy trustee for the nation of the Château of Chantilly. M. Jacques Siegfried gave the Château de Langeais, while the Minister of Fine Arts

¹ Committee for the general inventory of the artistic richness of France. It seeks to preserve any building or object having historical artistic interest. (Lasteyrie, *Bibliographie des travaux historiques et archéologiques*, vol. I, p. 167.)

did his utmost to make every fine structure of artistic or historic worth the property of the nation.

The Hôtel de Ville of Paris, the new Sorbonne, the Trocadéro, the Gare d'Orléans, the Alexander III Bridge, the Petit Palais, and the Grand Palais are among the most superb erections of our time. One can hardly praise too highly the grace and elegance of the new hotels, such as the Palace Hotel on the Champs-Élysées. The city of Paris gives prizes to those who erect the finest houses, to those who, with flowers, decorate most felicitously the fronts of their homes,¹ and even to those who revive in the most picturesque manner the old-fashioned commercial signs. Who could be so blinded by prejudice as to fail to see the æsthetic progress of Paris? Do not the parks and squares show innumerable evidences of improvement? Are not the streets of Paris, so admired by Philip Gilbert Hamerton² a quarter of a century ago, much more attractive now? There is certainly no possible comparison between the plain, monotonous, geometrical architecture of the city during the Second Empire, and the beautiful, graceful, varied, and dignified character of recent Parisian structures.

The same thing might be said of a goodly

¹ *L'Illustration*, Jan. 9, 1904.

² *Paris in Old and Present Times*, 1885, p. 219.

number of cities, like Tours and Orléans, while in the rural districts better architectural ideas are making way. Even the viaducts of railroads constructed in recent years indicate advance. The mud houses and the thatched roofs of a former generation are replaced by something vulgar enough at times but yet better. When did French sculpture, as a whole, exhibit more vitality and more power than during the period of Carpeaux, Frémiet, Dubois, Chapu, Barrias, Guillaume, Falguière, Idrac, Aimé Millet, Mercié, Bartholomé, Dalou, Rodin, and Bartholdi? When were such medals produced as those of Chapelain, of Chapu, of Dupuis, or the inimitable work of Roty? What can the Napoleonic régime oppose to the engravings of Léopold Flameng?¹ What period of French history of equal duration could present an array of names like Paul Baudry, Meissonier, Cabanel, Chartran, Carolus-Duran, Benjamin-Constant, Jules Breton, Rosa Bonheur, Puvis de Chavannes, François Flameng, Bastien-Lepage, Jean-Paul Laurens, Emile Lévy, Mme. Edmont-Breton, Protais, Moreau, Bonnat, Ribot, Manet, and Monet — to mention only a few names?

Nothing shows the power of contemporary

¹Notwithstanding the assertions of critics who wished to make Flameng a Belgian, we fearlessly assert that, though born in Brussels, he was of French origin, removed early to Paris, and was a thorough French artist.

French art more than its radiation all over the civilised world. Never more than now have foreigners resorted to French art schools or subjected themselves to the teaching of French masters. In all the museums one is struck by the prominence of artistic works produced by France during the last four decades. Rodin has some of his statuary in every centre of artistic culture. Eminent architects turn to Gallic artists for important mural paintings, whether it be the symbolistic canvas of Puvis de Chavannes for the Public Library of Boston, or "The Surrender of Yorktown," by Jean-Paul Laurens, for the Court House of Baltimore. French artistic inspiration shows itself in the works of great American artists whether they build Trinity Church of Boston or the Public Library of the same city.

French architects have carried the day in almost all great international competitions. Bénard designed the plans for the University of California; Rey, the Government Palace of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; Cordonnier, the Peace Palace of The Hague; Bouvard, the Pantheon of Brussels to the memory of illustrious Belgians; Robert and Hameau, the Government Palace of Lima, Peru; Flamant and Toussaint, the Parliament Building of Montevideo; Cret,

the home of South American republics in Washington. One can hardly enumerate the most important commercial, philanthropic, and residential structures erected by French architects in other lands. Few are the great cities which have not some monuments by French artists. Landowski and Bouchard have been selected to erect the Calvin monument in Geneva; and when it was decided to have a monument symbolising the union of the world by the Postal Union, Paul de Saint-Marceau created his superb work which is now one of the finest ornaments of Berne.

At home applied arts are doing wonders for the beautifying of French homes as well as of public buildings. Mural paintings, elegant wall-paper, artistic furniture, exquisite cut glass, beautiful ceramics, those of Sèvres from the government manufacture, and those from individual works in Limoges and elsewhere, the superb tapestries of the Gobelins and of Beauvais, not to speak of those of independent manufacture, ornamental leather, and choice bookbindings show the progress of the decorative arts.

In music the work of Gounod, Massenet, Saint-Saëns, Guilmant, Widor, men appreciated as much in foreign countries as at home, prepared the way for an especially French school

that has become one of the most significant factors in modern musical art. "César Franck, d'Indy, Gabriel Fauré, Chausson, Augusta Holmes, Charpentier, and many others drew the attention of the musical world to the serious purpose of the French composer as well as to his sensitive feeling for musical colour. It remained for Debussy to become pre-eminently its champion and to stand forth as the founder of a new type of composition that has influenced musicians everywhere. His opera, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, is epoch-making, and his orchestral and chamber music, his songs and his piano pieces have contributed a distinctly new treatment of musical material. Dukas, Ravel, and others who are working in the same vein give assurance that this is likely to be a permanent and valuable contribution."¹

The Opera, by reason of the variety of its repertoire and its interpretation of the greatest French masterpieces, has never been such a power for high musical culture as now. Serious music has never been more popular. The concerts organised by Colonne in 1873, by Lamoureux in 1882, and the *Chanteurs de Saint-Gervais*, later on transformed into the *Schola cantorum*, have done much to popularise

¹George Coleman Gow, Mus.D.

good music. There are ten concerts worthy of the name for one under the Second Empire. Musical organisations, bands, and choral societies are everywhere.

Theatrical art has representatives of whom any country might be proud. Mounet-Sully, Sarah Bernhardt, Coquelin, and Lebargy have attained a great eminence in their interpretation of the French drama. Not only has the dramatic *répertoire* become richer than before, but it has also been rendered more cosmopolitan by the addition of the masterpieces of Greece, of Rome, of Scandinavia, of Germany, and by the representation of Shakespeare, at times with incomparable splendour. The *Comité Shakespearien* is doing much to deepen interest in the great English dramatist. Contemporary British and American playwrights have also had their pieces presented.

A noteworthy trait of this artistic progress is that in all its phases it tends more and more to reach the masses and to help them. With that end in view, the government has forwarded this movement by as many measures as possible. The actors and actresses of the Théâtre Français have been allowed to play in various parts of the country. Adequate support has been given to the *Bibliothèque de l'enseignement des Beaux-*

Arts, which has endeavoured to popularise every known form of art, while the Louvre continues its superb work of reproducing its art treasures, either by casts, by engravings or by photographs, which are sold at an insignificant price. Private enterprise has issued works of artistic popularisation in which one knows not what to admire most, the exceptional character of the works or the prices at which they are put into the hands of readers. Art, which under the Empire was the privilege of the few, has come to be the common heritage of the many. If this popularisation has been attended with debasing uses of a noble power, it is true of almost all the arts of peace, and in all countries.

As to philosophy, until the foundation of the Republic it had been discouraged by the Church, and consequently by the government, as dangerous. It had never enjoyed freedom. It is a sad fact to repeat that French philosophy never was free. In order to exist, it had been compelled to be extremely considerate of theology and the clergy who, at any time, could have secured its exclusion from the schools. Another misfortune of French philosophy was that it had to be extremely literary to secure readers, as a philosophical reading public had yet to be constituted. The finest works on the subject were

literary philosophical discussions, without any fundamental principles, rather than philosophy itself. At best it was the eclecticism of Cousin corrected by his disciples. Even in this form it was unpopular among conservatives. In fact, after the *coup d'Etat* Napoleon, seeking the support of the clergy, forbade the teaching of any philosophy at all, though an exception was made for formal logic.¹ The emperor relented later on, but instruction in this field was always more or less under suspicion.

Under the Republic philosophical studies have been stimulated. Professors of philosophy have become numerous. The Faculty of Letters of Paris has nine, the Collège de France has three, the Catholic Institute has five, not to speak of other institutions for secondary education. Every *lycée* and *collège* is provided with at least one professor of philosophy. Let one read the following text-books: Boirac, A.-E., *Cours élémentaire de philosophie*;² F. J., *Cours de philosophie*;³ Janet, P., *Eléments de philosophie scientifique et de philosophie morale*;⁴ Penjon, A., *Précis de philosophie*;⁵ Malapert, P., *Leçons de philosophie*⁶ — five manuals of philosophy among those that

¹ Janet, P., *La Philosophie française contemporaine*, 1879, p. 50; H. Taine, *sa vie et sa correspondance*, vol. I, p. 187; Lavissee, E., *Souvenirs*, p. 210.

² 1902.

³ Tours, 1896.

⁴ 1890.

⁵ 1897.

⁶ 1907.

are used — and one cannot avoid the conclusion that pedagogic philosophy is presented wisely and efficiently to French students. Further, there is a common agreement among those who have been sympathetic observers of French secondary schools that philosophy is the subject best taught, and one taught by the ablest men among educators.¹

Formerly the subject-matter of this study was given in a very definite programme from which the professor was not free to depart, either in the scope of his course or in the official doctrine. Now the State philosophy, like the State Church, is disappearing.² Philosophical teachers are no longer a timid little group of thinkers, but a distinguished class of earnest, truth-loving, sincere men, who mark a signal advance upon their predecessors. They are not the narrow sectarian rationalists represented by the clericals, but men who, as a rule, believe in genuine freedom of thought. At first, students were led by the desire to find in philosophy weapons against what they called “ecclesiastical despotism” rather than by the love of truth, but now the polemical stage is

¹ *Pour et contre l'enseignement philosophique*, 1894. See letters by M. M. Boutroux, Janet, and Fouillée.

² Binet, A., “L'Evolution de l'enseignement philosophique,” in *L'Année psychologique*, 1908, p. 163.

passed. The former tendency to delight in the display of argumentative skill, in philosophical skirmishing, has been gradually replaced by endeavours to give a larger place to reality, to develop a greater capacity for reasoning from facts, and to cultivate philosophy for its own worth.

The system propounded in the student world has been the eclectic theism of Cousin, now more and more superseded by neo-Kantism,¹ though the professors have had their ideas somewhat coloured by the evolutionism of Spencer and tinged with Bergsonism. It may be added that this teaching has no longer the unity of former days, but the genuine philosophical student cannot deplore it. So great has been the interest aroused that even the Catholic Church, in her institutions, is forced to give a place, and an important one, to philosophical studies which formerly were avoided. Some of her professors are men of mark. There has been a renewal of philosophical life in her work of apologetics, for which she has never deserved more credit.

Men of note, who were also men of character, have singularly helped this movement. Renou-

¹ See Brunschvicg, *L'idéalisme contemporain*, 1905; Arréat, *Dix années de philosophie*, 1901.

vier — who never held a single official position in the university — who scarcely ever had any personal contact with well-known metaphysicians, except to attack them, often with a violence hardly tempered with courtesy — who antagonised all the moral foibles of his contemporaries, ever holding up the sacredness of “the categorical imperative” — who consecrated his fortune and his life to his philosophical apostleship — wrought a profound change in French philosophy. No man did more than he to fight morbid scepticism and to place philosophical speculations upon an ethical basis.

Lachelier differed from Renouvier in this, that he directly inspired a whole generation of students of the Superior Normal School of Paris who became uncommon teachers. Paul Janet was for a long time the defender of philosophy against narrow materialists as well as against narrower theologians. He was a brilliant expounder and critic of the thought of others. No one was a more illuminating interpreter of Kant, and no one more luminously applied philosophy to the solution of the burning questions of his time.

The indefatigable Fouillée stands high among philosophers. While he attracted much attention by the discussion of his *les Idées-forces*, he

also published important works of historical philosophy. His two books, *Le mouvement positiviste*¹ and *Le mouvement idéaliste*,² gave able discussions of the trend of contemporary French speculation. Several of his works were masterful and timely. *La psychologie du peuple français*³ and *La France au point de vue moral*⁴ are the best books available for one who would penetrate into the deepest life of France and understand the French of to-day. Free from national vanity, served by an immense and fresh erudition, inspired by the objective spirit, these volumes are the deepest analyses known to the writer of the ethnographical, the psychological, and ethical characteristics of the nation. His *Esquisse psychologique des peuples européens*,⁵ is a rare study of the traits of the leading peoples of Europe. Ten years before R. G. Usher published his *Pan-Germanism*, 1913, and J. A. Cram issued his *Germany and England*, 1914, purporting to reveal to us a new Germany, Fouillée had given us a much deeper and truer interpretation of German thought, feelings and ideals.⁶

Rising upon science to great speculative heights, Henri Poincaré has rendered great ser-

¹ 1896.² 1896.³ 1898.⁴ 1900.⁵ 1903.⁶ *Esquisse psychologique des peuples européens*, p. 245.

vices to philosophy by showing the limitations of the sciences and the legitimate philosophical conclusions that may be drawn from them. His books, *La Science et l'hypothèse* and *La Valeur de la science*, are epoch-making. At this point his name is indissolubly associated with that of Emile Boutroux, his brother-in-law. The two men, both disciples of Kant and upholders of the "practical reason," have interpenetrated each other with their own spirit. Boutroux has done most of his best work as an inspiring teacher. His life, like his philosophy, is a life of action. He has been the strong and gracious personality that one always delights to see and hear at congresses where his co-operation has always been prized. His signal work, *De la Contingence des lois de la nature*, is, perhaps, the strongest refutation of determinism ever made, one commanding alike the admiration of scientists and philosophers. He opposed materialism as energetically as Renouvier, more efficiently perhaps, because more gently, showing its inability to explain and help life. François Pillon is not far out of the way when he speaks of this philosophy as "a thinned, reformed, and perfected pragmatism."¹

Bergson, the eminent professor of the Collège

¹ *L'Année philosophique*, 1908, p. 174.

de France, stands out also conspicuously by his strength and originality. No one among contemporary French philosophers is so familiar with the speculations of his own kind or so original in adding to them. His works are not many, but each one of them is exceptional, that is, masterly and creative. He has condensed the essence of his thought in his *magnum opus*, *L'évolution créatrice*.¹ It is the ablest philosophy of evolutionism which has ever been penned by a Frenchman. Bergson claims to have placed "metaphysics upon the basis of experience and by appealing to science, consciousness, and intuition to have constituted a philosophy capable of furnishing, not only general theories, but also concrete explanations of particular facts."² His system, however brilliantly sketched, has not fully passed out of the period of formation. His fundamental views of all, ideas, things, and men in a ceaseless and endless movement impelled by the vital impulses, has been called "mobilism," while those who resent his disparagement of knowledge call it "anti-intellectualism" and "irrationalism."³ It decidedly seems inconsistent for us to have a philosophy at all if knowledge is so unreliable.

¹ 1908.

² *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 29.

³ Binet, *L'Année psychologique*, 1908, p. 199.

He uses the term "intuition" in all kinds of ways.¹ His "vital impulse," his great hypothesis, may seem excessive when one takes a calm view of the universe. One fact is certain: he has enriched the French language by creating much-needed literary forms and coining new expressions describing life. One of the greatest services that he has rendered is, perhaps, the great enthusiasm which he has called forth for philosophical questions.

The men just mentioned are only a few in a noble company, among whom we find Lévy-Bruhl, Dauriac, Séailles, Roberty, G. Lyon, who have done superb service. We should like also to mention Rauh, and above all Auguste Sabatier, who is so inspiring.² Among psychologists Ribot stands conspicuous by his personal work of investigation. As a professor of experimental and of comparative psychology he has given a great impulse to such studies in France. Among those who have won great distinction in the same realm we must also mention Pierre Janet, of the Collège de France, and Georges Dumas at the Sorbonne. It may not be inappropriate to mention here the philo-

¹ Benda, J., *Le Bergsonisme ou une philosophie de la mobilité*, 1912, p. 33, 40, 47, and 49.

² See the brilliant survey of French philosophy with a valuable bibliography by Henri Bergson, in *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 15.

sophical interest centring upon the two French schools of mental healing; that of Nancy, laying stress upon the physiological side of hypnotism, and that of the Salpêtrière, which emphasized the more profound aspects of suggestive therapeutics. Charcot and his pupil Féré have been conspicuous workers in this field.

One may form an idea of the great number of these philosophers by examining the extensive and varied collections of philosophical works issued by the publisher, F. Alcan, to whom philosophy owes a debt of gratitude for his eminent services. The *Bibliothèque de philosophie scientifique* under M. Gustave Lebon would also offer important works for the same purpose. There are, besides, the philosophical reviews: that of Renouvier and Pillon, *La critique philosophique*, founded in 1872, maintained by the energetic spirit of these two men until 1889; the *Revue philosophique* of M. Ribot, started in 1876; the *Revue de métaphysique et de morale* of Xavier Léon, begun in 1893. In 1901 was founded the *Institut psychologique*, in which present-day problems are studied by committees and lectures given by French and foreign professors. Reports of its work are given in its *Bulletin*. In 1901 was founded the *Société française de philosophie*.

Other groupings for work have been organised. To this we must add the *Année philosophique*, the *Année psychologique*, and the *Année sociologique*, three publications devoted to three perfectly separate spheres, but all discussing, and discussing ably, some aspects of philosophical questions.

All these indices of a vigorous philosophical life point to an activity, the extent of which can only be grasped when one remembers the able theses which have been published in the universities, in the schools of theology, as well as the great bibliography of the philosophical works published during the last forty years. All these manifestations of philosophical energy testify to an intense mental labour, and to a deep transformation of the French mind. It may be fearlessly stated that in these philosophical efforts hardly any part of the speculative domain has been left untouched. The problems of "the whence" and "the whither," of the origin of things, of the laws of human conduct, of the ultimate destiny of man, of the existence or non-existence of God, have been approached with an independence which does not shrink either from fearless affirmation or negation; let us say that negation is the exception rather than the rule.

The true and candid spirit of the leading representatives of the philosophical schools has brought them nearer one another, while among the greater number is seen a concern for moral issues impossible in the days of enthusiasm for the teachings of Taine. In fact, the schools have so interpenetrated one another as to have nearly disappeared. M. Gabriel Séailles says: "It is certain that there is at the present hour in France a philosophical movement, a very living thought, very active without our being able to mark the preponderance of any one system except in a general way. It is the reign of life and of liberty."¹ This philosophical alertness tends to create a public of philosophical readers. In countries of Protestant culture such a public exists. The free philosophical discussion of all great problems, religious and other, develops an interest which finds expression in wider reading, not stopping at the frontier of the world of intellectual speculations. The new philosophical predilection has certainly deepened the thinking of Frenchmen, arrested the thoughts of many of them upon the great problems of life, and given them a clearer moral consciousness. Philosophical intelligence not only radiates from the schools, from the writings of

¹ Private letter to the writer.

independent thinkers, but even from much of French contemporary literature and especially from poetry, the drama, and fiction. If now almost every citizen can read, it is a further fact that every public man who is at least a bachelor of letters, doctors, lawyers, pastors, most journalists, and most novelists have more or less philosophy.

One cannot rejoice too much over this growing sway of philosophy; for with the wide and sudden spread of common-school education, the remarkable extension of the press, the unprecedented circulation of books, the increase of travel, the military service, and other factors, a whole flood of ill-digested, uncorrelated information was suddenly scattered through the country. This would have brought about a mental chaos which might have been fatal, had not philosophy become a national force to bring about mental order, penetrating in different ways into the various social strata of French democracy. It has singularly modified and lessened the vulgar materialism which comes everywhere with wealth; it has exploded innumerable bubbles of religious or irreligious fanaticism, while it has given a higher rational end to education.

No less significant is the development of

sociological studies, carried on in many directions. We see the influence of this activity in works of social reform, in politics, in the newer conceptions of history, of literature, and religion. One cannot overlook efforts like those of Edmond Demolins, the author of that well-meant but inadequate book, *A quoi tient la supériorité des Anglo-Saxons?* and the disciples whom he has grouped around him to continue the work of Le Play for the betterment of society. Through the *Société d'économie sociale*, founded after the Franco-Prussian War, they have done no little, in a conservative way, for social improvement, centring their efforts upon what is to them the great social unit, the family. The large number of monographs upon France which have been published by the members of this organisation must eventually tell.

The best work of sociologists and economists is yet done by those connected with the institutions of learning. Much more than those just referred to they are animated with the scientific spirit. Abreast of the work of other countries, they all have striven to place sociology upon a firmer foundation. Some make it a part of philosophy, others a science; but whatever be their point of view, they propagate sounder conceptions of society and of the best way to im-

prove it. Tarde, who claimed to have found a scientific basis for sociology in the laws of imitation, made his countrymen do much thinking. Durkheim has done brilliant work, and edited that rich and suggestive publication, the *Année sociologique*. Gide, well known at home and abroad, is one of the ablest social investigators and social workers of Europe. Bouglé combines the qualities of German scholarship with the best traits of French savants. He wrought clearly and profoundly upon the problems of modern society. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, the eminent professor at the Collège de France and editor of *L'économiste français*, added to his claims as an eminent scientist a remarkable record of intelligence and courage, when his was the only journalistic voice in France protesting against the Panama iniquities. No man has been a more competent interpreter of the colonial work of France.

Outside of the educational world, yet closely in touch with it, are able economists affecting the nation through journalism. Among them we should mention Yves Guyot, who has taken a noble stand in all questions, and ever been the friend of economic liberty; Alfred Neymarck, editor of *Le Rentier*, and Edmond Théry, editor of *L'économiste Européen*, men whose point of

view may not be ours, but whose vital influence cannot be overlooked. The leading characteristic of literature, art, and philosophy during the last forty years has been the manifestation of astounding energy.

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CHAPTER VI

THE NEW ACTIVITY IN HISTORY AND SCIENCE

THE progress of the historical sciences has been epoch-making. The most important needs for progress in this realm are absolute freedom of inquiry, opportunities of research as well as of investigation, and freedom of speech. The Republic has furnished them all. Investigators have been so free that many of them in official positions have not infrequently expressed conclusions quite at variance with those of their chiefs concerning historical points bearing upon the controversies between Church and State. During a stay of one year in Paris the writer saw, in the National Library, in the National Archives, and even in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the bitter opponents of the Republic treated in every way like other investigators. Under this régime, as under the preceding, historians have enjoyed much consideration, and several of them have been placed at the head of important ministries. In the Ministry of Public Instruc-

tion there has been a considerable enlargement of organisations to further the cause of history. The historical commission of that ministry continues its rich collection of documents. The government helps particular historians, either by furnishing the assistance needed for special work, or by publishing their books through the National Printing Press, or in some other manner. Numerous historical chairs have been founded. At times cities have joined with the government in this work; the city of Paris has founded several chairs of history. Important fellowships in history have been established.¹

There has never been such unanimity upon the importance of working from sources. A noble emulation has arisen in the publication of documents by the government, by the academies, by cities, and by historical societies that are now to be counted by the hundred. For one of these that existed under the Empire there are now ten. They have accumulated material upon a colossal scale for the subjects to which they are devoted. French historians have never before been so extensively associated, either as corporate or as corresponding members, with foreign historical societies. Government help was never given more generously

¹ *Bourses de licence d'histoire.*

than now. The Parliament voted \$100,000 for the excavations at Delphi, so admirably carried on by M. Homolle.¹ In other parts of Greece, in Asia,² and in North Africa extensive works of a kindred nature have compelled unknown history to yield some of her secrets. Similarly in different parts of France, and under various auspices, traces have been sought of prehistoric life, and remains of the buried cities of Gaul have been uncovered. Cartailhac, de Mortillet, and S. Reinach have, by their labours, recast our ethnological conceptions of the French people and given a further and more real retrospect to French history.³

Not only have mediæval, modern, and contemporary history been studied in all their phases, but French historians have shown great interest in Celtic, Egyptian,⁴ Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Arabic, and Indian studies,⁵ not to speak of others which show more and more that the field of history is the world. In addition to the historical schools of France in Rome,⁶ in Athens, and in Cairo, as well as the

¹ Collignon, Max, in *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 48.

² *Ibid.*, p. 41.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

⁴ See admirable report of what France has done in Egyptology, by Professor G. Maspero, *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 5.

⁵ Sylvaïn, Lévy, "L'Indianisme," *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 125.

⁶ Durand, René, "La philologie latine," *ibid.*, p. 167.

institutional efforts made in North Africa, a French School of the Far East has been started in Indo-China¹. Wherever the French flag has been planted the claims of history have not been overlooked.

A great movement of historical activity has been directed toward modern Italy, her art, her literature, and her history, which still have such a strange fascination for Frenchmen.² Hispanic studies have also vastly increased.³ Great Britain, the country which has exerted the deepest possible influence upon French life from the first quarter of the eighteenth century to the present time, has never called forth more efforts on the part of students. There are the masterly works of J. Jusserand, whose superior grasp of English literature was recognised by Taine,⁴ the great book of Angelier on Robert Burns, Yves Guyot's studies of England, Bardoux's *Ruskin*, and among works of great worth Legouis's *Chaucer*.⁵ It is only after reading Charles Andler's thorough analysis of Germanic studies that one can, at all, have a

¹ Chavannes, Ed., "La Sinologie," *ibid.*, p. 137.

² Hauvette, Henri, *Les Etudes italiennes*, in *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 251.

³ Martinenche, Ernest, *Les Etudes hispaniques*, *ibid.*, p. 261.

⁴ H. Taine, *sa vie et sa correspondance*, vol. IV, p. 310.

⁵ Legouis, Emile, *Les Etudes anglaises*, *La Science française*, vol. II, p. 275.

fair idea of the many-sided grasp of the thought, history, and life of Germany by Frenchmen.¹

Never has the country been more fertile in historians of a high order. Renan, Taine, Lavissee, Gabriel Monod, Sorel, Hanotaux, Rambaud, and Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu are not only masters in various ways, but Lavissee and Monod remain great historical teachers. Gabriel Monod not only founded the *Revue historique* and organised the *Société historique*, but trained a goodly number of distinguished pupils, like him inspired by the purest scientific spirit and a strict sense of loyalty to facts. Most of them follow at any cost the objective method.

✓ The chief end of history for reputable French historians is truth and truth only. Some of them seem indifferent to national prejudices, and have stated, with the resoluteness of prophets, facts which were offensive to national pride. Sorel² and Lavissee have been conspicuous in this respect. The thoroughness, the synthetic character, and the scientific objectivity of French history are more and more evident. One of the striking features of this French activity is the small army of searchers who are

¹ Andler, Charles, *Les Etudes germaniques*, *ibid.*, p. 285.

² See, for a signal example of this, Sorel, *Histoire de la guerre franco-allemande*, Paris, 1875.

everywhere exploring the past of men and things with a common purpose of increasing human knowledge. The Republic has, with freedom, furnished the tools for this great collective inquiry, rewarded those who have sketched its results in the best manner, and helped not a little the popularisation of historical works.

History has never before had such a large place in the primary and secondary schools and in the universities. The manuals of historical teaching have been so improved that the textbooks of the Empire and those used now do not seem to be by or for the same people. French libraries give proportionally a larger place to history than those of America, and the relative number of historical works read is also greater. Of course, there are still men who write history in the interest of peculiar cliques; but the genuine historical spirit has so penetrated into the nation's life, that one finds its beneficent influence in ecclesiastical historiography and in hagiographic literature, domains where formerly it was signally wanting.

Outside of the almost endless bibliography of historical works published under the Republic, one may have an idea of the place which history has taken in the national life from the fact that there are few reviews of a general character

which do not give to it an important place. The *Revue des Deux Mondes* has published in its pages many of the most important historical works which have appeared during the last half century. One may draw the same conclusion from the new historical reviews—taking the term *historical* in the largest sense possible. Among others we have *Romania*, founded in 1871; *Bulletin de la société des anciens textes*, in 1875; *La Revue historique*, 1876; *Le Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*, *Revue de philologie, de littérature et d'histoire ancienne*, 1877; *Revue épigraphique*, 1878; *Revue de l'histoire des religions*, 1880; *Revue égyptologique*, *Revue des études juives*, *Revue de la Révolution française*, 1881; *Répertoire des travaux historiques*, *Revue de la Révolution*, 1883; *Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale*, 1886; *Revue des traditions populaires*, *Revue des études grecques*, 1888; *Revue historique et héraldique*, *Revue d'histoire diplomatique*, 1893; *Revue d'histoire littéraire*, *Revue hispanique*, 1894; *Gazette numismatique française*, *Revue de l'art ancien et moderne*, 1897; *Revue des études anciennes*, *Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine*, *Bulletin hispanique*, 1899; *Revue de Synthèse historique*, 1900; *Revue germanique*, 1905, and *Revue du XVI^e siècle*, *Revue du XVIII^e siècle*, 1913. In this new vogue of his-

tory, as in the other manifestations of the national life which we have studied, the increased prestige and influence of science is seen.

The pride of republicans soars high when they speak of the scientific achievements of Frenchmen. They cannot but draw a very striking contrast between the scientific equipment of France under the Empire and that of to-day. Pasteur speaks of the place where the great French physiologist, Claude Bernard, worked, as a laboratory "half cellar, half tomb,"¹ the "hovel,"² "a damp and low cellar."³ His own was for a long time but an attic, and one of scanty proportions, which would excite the contempt of teachers of chemistry in our humblest high school. Even later on, his laboratory in the *Ecole normale supérieure* consisted of only two small rooms. This great scientist waxes eloquent when he sees the superb laboratories of the Sorbonne opened twenty-five years ago. In a moment of grateful enthusiasm he exclaims: "Everything from the schools of the villages to the laboratories of advanced science has been either founded or renovated."⁴ The same movement has been continued since his death. Laboratories of all kinds have been

¹ Vallery-Radot, *La vie de Pasteur*, 1900, p. 216.

² *Ibid.*, p. 661.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 667.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 656.

established. The Faculty of Sciences has 20 at the Sorbonne, and 24 scattered in Paris, all devoted to teaching and to research.¹ There are 10 in the Faculty of Medicine, 28 at the Practical School of High Studies,² 20 at the *Collège de France*, 7 at the National Agronomic Institute, not to speak of those located in different parts of the land. There are some also in the colonies. The Pasteur Institute is but an immense laboratory studying bacteriology, parasitology, biological chemistry, physiology, and experimental medicine. There are those of zoology, with stations at Roscoff in Brittany, at Boulogne, Villefranche, Marseilles, and Cette. There are also those of vegetal biology at Fontainebleau, and of geology at Lille. It was of the creation of most of these laboratories that Pasteur spoke, when he referred to what had been "founded and renovated."

We are far from the time when he laments the fact that Napoleon can find millions to build the Opéra, but cannot find "between twelve and twenty thousand dollars" to equip a laboratory.³ There was not then in the budget of the Ministry of Public Instruction one penny devoted to the physical sciences by means of

¹ *Livret de l'étudiant*, 1908-1909, p. 43.

² *Ibid.*, p. 79.

³ Vallery-Radot, *op. cit.*, p. 215.

laboratories.¹ The laboratory idea has also been extended to subjects which formerly seemed out of its scope, -experimental psychology, for instance. Recently a congress of French teachers asked that these psychological laboratories be introduced into all the normal schools for the future teachers of common education. One may say that the laboratory method has been generalised.

Other instruments also of scientific progress have been created. Important astronomical observatories were erected at Algiers, Besançon, Bordeaux, Lyons, not to speak of those established at Mendon, upon Mont Blanc, at the Pic-du-Midi, on the Puy-de-Dôme, and in Nice. Some of them have exceptional equipments.

A separation took place between the astronomical and meteorological work, which has brought about the creation of the *Bureau central de météorologie*, a weather bureau that has rendered vast services. While working with unity of purpose at home, French astronomers, by various organisations and congresses, have sought to secure international efficiency. They held a great international congress in 1887 for the photography of the heavens. They had previously organised the International Com-

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 216.

mittee of Weights and Measures, which led to the establishment, at Sèvres, of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. As the metric standard rests upon an astronomical basis, it was fitting that astronomers should endeavour to perfect the system and solve further problems. The International Conference of Time¹ resulted also in the creation of the International Bureau of Time at the Paris Observatory. Until resources are provided by the countries interested, the Bureau, at the expense of the government, sends twice a day time signals from the Observatory to the Eiffel Tower, whence they radiate in every direction. All the foreign members of the International Conference intrusted France with the task of giving the time by wireless to the world.² Her astronomers have been untiring in working for the progress of celestial mechanics, geodesy, astrophysics, and astrophotography. It is almost impossible to count their missions sent to all parts of the world for special inquiries, eclipses, the transit of Venus, or for the tremendous task of measuring the equatorial arc of Peru. Perhaps her best contributions have been her eminent astronomers, Le Verrier,

¹ *Conférence internationale de l'Heure.*

² *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 121.

Tisserand, and Henri Poincaré. The latter even dared to grapple with the problem of the stability of our solar system in the vast universe, and to place upon a solid foundation what before him had been largely conjectural. Professor Louis T. Moore speaks of him as "the successor of Laplace,"¹ Professor Rados, of Budapest, calls him "the most powerful investigator in the domain of mathematics and mathematical physics" at that time.² Professor Royce, of Harvard, speaks of him as "a leader of his age."³ "There is not a man living competent to appraise all his works," says Professor F. R. Moulton, of the University of Chicago.⁴ Again, speaking of *Les méthodes nouvelles*, he says: "I shall leave the discussion of the processes employed by Poincaré with the remark that in power and elegance they are as much beyond those of Laplace as his were beyond the geometry of Newton."⁵ He probably would never have accomplished so much had it not been for the quickening which he received from the institutions with which he was connected and the scientific activity whereby he was surrounded. That is evident when one reads his addresses

¹ *The Nation*, vol. 95, p. 242.

² Poincaré, H., *The Value of Science*, American translation, p. 1.

³ Poincaré, H., *Science and Hypothesis*, Introduction, p. xxxi.

⁴ *Popular Astronomy*, vol. XX, p. 624.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 626.

in *Savants et écrivains*. That book and Paul Appell's survey of modern mathematics¹ reveal to us a remarkable activity. Those who have considered mathematics as a closed science, something like the dead languages, will be struck with the amount of vital energy displayed in this domain.

In the land of the great physicists, Pascal, Descartes, Laplace, Arago, Fresnel, and Ampère, physics have been pushed forward with great energy. Doubtless the increasingly utilitarian importance of this science has contributed to its progress. Its whole scope has been changed under the Republic. Formerly it was considered as absolutely separate from chemistry, but a group of French scientists have built an indestructible bridge between them. Berthelot was a leader in this. His ambition was to create what he called chemical mechanics, a term which is the subject of one of his most important books.

Apart from progressive work in thermodynamics and optics, prominence has been given to electricity and its applications, the new gases of the atmosphere, and the radioactive substances. At the International Congress of Electricians in Paris, when names were given to electric units, it was decided that two of them

¹ *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 78.

would be the names of Frenchmen who had rendered conspicuous services, Coulomb and Ampère. The three others, Volta, Faraday, and Ohm, represented Italy, England, and Germany. French electricians were foremost in defining and fixing electric standards. Marcel Deprez was first in transmitting electric energy over distances. Mme. Curie discovered polonium and then radium. She thereby wrought most profound changes in some of our fundamental conceptions of the physical sciences. She practically opened the whole field of radiography, in which she now directs the researches of an élite of young scientists. Henri Becquerelle, the third scientist of the name, has also won great repute by his general work, but especially by his discovery of radioactivity in uranium. Lippmann, known by his colleagues for his studies of electrocapillarity, stands before the public as a great scientist who, by applying strictly his optical principles, succeeded in making real coloured photographs. French physicists were kept in touch with one another by a large number of societies, but above all by the *Société française de physique*. Apart from many ties with foreign workers, they organised the International Scientific Congress of Physics which met in Paris in 1900. This congress so impressed French physi-

cists that they have since endeavoured to continue its work.¹

Let Doctor Harvey M. Wiley, of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, give us his estimate of French work in a realm in which he has a recognised eminence. "One naturally turns to Berthelot in speaking of French chemists of modern times. Since the death of Chevreul he has been *facile princeps* among French chemists. Berthelot's activity in all branches of chemical science distinguishes him among chemists, who usually are masters only in some one department of science. Berthelot was a master in all. . . . Almost as eminent as Berthelot was that great worker, Moissan, whose untimely death lost to French chemistry one of its most brilliant representatives. His work, of course, was chiefly inorganic chemistry, and his synthetic preparation of the precious stones under the influence of the electric furnace is a distinct step forward in the progress of chemistry."² "Before Moissan," says Doctor Edward Renouf, of Johns Hopkins, "the study of chemical reactions had been confined to temperatures between 50 degrees below and 1,200 degrees above zero centigrade. Moissan invented the electric furnace . . . in

¹ Bouty, E., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 131.

² Letter, Feb. 16, 1910.

which 3,000 degrees centigrade are attainable, temperatures comparable with that of the sun. His studies of chemical reactions at high temperatures opened up a new field for chemical research, and are especially valuable to astronomy by indicating the probable chemical reactions and conditions of matter in the sun and in the stars, and to geology by showing the complex changes in the composition of matter which must have occurred in the gradual cooling of the earth. Moissan was also one of the first chemists to utilise liquid air as a refrigerant, in the study of chemical reactions at extremely low temperatures, and devised ingenious apparatus for his purpose.”¹

In the “brilliant array” of French chemists we must not fail to mention M. and Mme. Curie. “It is a rare combination,” says again Doctor Wiley, “to see husband and wife equally eminent in the most difficult and recondite branches of chemical investigations. The world was shocked by the accidental death of M. Curie, but it has been no less surprised at the brilliant work of Mme. Curie since her husband’s death. It is not because of a feeling of gallantry, but of real accomplishment, that the chemical world bows before Mme. Curie. . . .

¹ Letter, Sept., 1909.

The examples I have mentioned are only types of brilliant and magnificent work of French chemists during the past third of a century. The Republic, since its establishment on the fourth of September, 1870, may feel proud of what has been accomplished in chemical science. Adolph Wurtz, one of the most brilliant of French chemists of modern times, declared that chemistry is a French science, founded by Lavoissier, of immortal memory. The French chemists of the Republic have well illustrated the fact that chemistry is also a continuing French science.”¹

Pasteur did a large amount of work as a chemist for which he never received any credit; but he is accounted everywhere one of the greatest figures of the scientific world. He effectively opened the new world of invisible life, opened the way for Lister's great antiseptic work, practically saved French sericulture, found a scientific way to exterminate anthrax, and finally made his last great discovery of anti-rabies vaccine. The frequency of hydrophobia in Europe gave a greater significance to his cure for one of the most dreaded of diseases. His contribution to science does not consist in this or that particular discovery, but in the

¹ Dr. H. M. Wiley, *ibid.*

fundamental new principles which he introduced into medicine, surgery, hygiene, and the sciences of life. There is not a civilised country where natural sciences have not been affected by the principles which he discovered. He gave France the example of an eminent scientist ready to fight courageously for the rights of science against theologians, while opposing scientists when they exceeded the proper limits of their realm. He had the courage in the French Academy to assert that, beyond the visible, he had seen what to him was evidence of the supernatural, for which the world had found personal symbols, whether they were a Buddha or a Jesus.

Several men were directly inspired by the teachings of Pasteur. There is Roux producing the anti-diphtheric vaccine, and Calmette his anti-venomous serum against the bite of venomous animals. We might add to these names those of Duclaux, Metchnikoff, Yersin, and others.¹ It looks as if there was no phase of bacteriology upon which these *savants* had not thrown some light or increased our knowledge of it. Professor B. Renault observed in coal minute organisms belonging to the Bacteriaceæ.² Other scientists have discovered a number of

¹ Vallery-Radot, *op. cit.*, pp. 673 *et seq.*

² Zeiller, R., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 272.

bacteria and other agents of diseases.¹ Professor A. Laveran was so fortunate as to isolate one of the organisms which produce malaria.²

Among zoologists J. H. Fabre has astonished the world by his remarkable studies of the habits of insects. Armand Sabatier, enlarging upon his conclusions as a naturalist, and lifting them up to a high philosophical plane, has discussed with great originality some of the most fundamental problems of human existence.³ The continuance of that existence is one of the great ends of scientific inquiries. We cannot, therefore, overlook the new way which a Frenchman, Doctor Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute, has opened for experimental physiology. His wonderful experiments with grafts of flesh, the survival of cells and the culture of tissues⁴ have awakened expectations of greater things.

France, whose Bernard Palissy as early as the sixteenth century had already a fair apprehension of the formation of our globe, has kept an extraordinary interest in its problems. A large corps of geologists have thoroughly worked the home field, hand in hand with paleontologists

¹ Roger, H., *ibid.*, p. 363.

² Roger, H., *ibid.*, p. 364.

³ See *Essai sur la vie et la mort*, 1892; *Essai sur l'immortalité au point de vue du naturalisme évolutioniste*, 1895; *Philosophie de l'effort*, 1903.

⁴ Roger, H., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 344.

and the geographers. As a whole, no country has been better searched by its geologists than France. They have also studied different parts of the world, America and Asia, but especially French colonies, North Africa, the Sahara, Dahomey, Madagascar, and Indo-China. In reading the records one is amazed that so much should already have been accomplished in difficult circumstances. "Lapparent," wrote Doctor Rice, of Wesleyan University, a few years ago, "stands in the first rank among all-round geologists. The late German paleontologist, von Zittel, told him that Lapparent's *Géologie* was the best book on geology in existence." A more important work¹ is the *Traité de Géologie* of M. Emile Haug, professor at the Sorbonne. Fouqué and Michel-Lévy have taken foremost places in the comparatively new department of microscopic petrography. They have made a synthesis of almost all volcanic rocks. Some of their colleagues have endeavoured to make minerals purer than those of nature so as to grasp more fully their chemical composition.² Verneuil has rendered possible the industry of artificial rubies, sapphires, and spinels.³ Often the geologists work with the paleontologists, and

¹ De Margerie, E., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 246.

² Lacroix, A., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 178.

³ Lacroix, A., *ibid.*, p. 177.

we have a man like Gaudry whose philosophical culture enables him to draw valuable cosmological deductions from his studies.¹ Some one has called him "the founder of historical and philosophical paleontology."² He unquestionably furnished sound philosophical conclusions from our contemporary knowledge of the testimonies of the earth.

Geological studies in France led to discoveries of human paleontology, that is, of fossil man. In searching the caves and excavations in certain districts the most important specimens that we possess were found. The problems that these savants try to solve are so important that many men are now digging for new remains of the distant past. With these scientists one finds a legion of students of pre-history, studying the work of primitive man, and pre-historical archeology gives a learned setting to these remains of our distant ancestors.³ For these reasons anthropology and ethnology have come to take, in almost all studies, an importance which would have been impossible under Napoleon III. Broca did most of his work under the Re-

¹ See *Enchaînements du monde animal dans les temps géologiques*, 1878-1883; *Essai de paléontologie philosophique*.

² Boule, M., *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 301.

³ To have an idea of what is done in this domain, the number of investigators at work, and their success, see Max Collignon's report in *La Science française*, vol. II, pp. 64-69.

public. Then we have Topinard, de Quatrefages, and Hamy, who have won laurels in this singularly interesting field in which we must place Fouillée, not as a specialist, but as one who has subjected the conclusions of anthropologists and ethnologists to the severest philosophical tests. Medicine and surgery in France, as compared with other countries, may not have the place of unique distinction which they had forty years ago; but competent Americans assert that these two sciences — in so far as they are sciences — have made enormous progress there.

We have already referred to those new scientific societies and their varied annual publications which are increasingly specialised with the tendency to turn results of science into practical channels. There has also been the issuing of those periodicals which give yearly surveys of the whole field of one or of several sciences, such as the *Année biologique*, the *Année psychologique*, the *Année sociologique*, the *Annuaire de la société d'ethnographie*, the *Annuaire géologique universel*, which are as invaluable for specialists as for the man of the world who wishes to be acquainted with the work done in these domains. There are important works, like Wurtz's *Dictionnaire de chimie*, 11 volumes; Frémy's

Encyclopédie chimique, 92 volumes; Richet's *Dictionnaire de physiologie*, 9 volumes; the *Dictionnaire encyclopédique des sciences médicales*, 100 volumes, and other great collective works, most useful tools for scientific students. Of 299 periodical publications devoted to the subject of health, that is, medicine, surgery, and hygiene, 225 were started under the Republic. Of the 25 publications on medical sciences mentioned by Dr. Henri Roger in his bibliography, 22 were first issued during the same period.¹ Of the 19 papers on metallurgy, 10 are of recent creation, and of the 84 general scientific papers, 56 were launched during the last forty years.²

In every part of the country private individuals have pursued scientific studies on their own account, while French travellers, missionaries, and officers in the colonies have rendered manifest services by their observations and discoveries. There has been kindled a spirit of scientific apostleship, which has found expression in many ways, but especially in the organisation of societies and clubs with scientific ends in view. Of the 64 learned societies in Paris mentioned by *Minerva* with the date of their foundation, 29 were started before the Republic and 35 after.

¹ *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 373.

² *Annuaire de la presse française et étrangère*, 1909.

Of course, these are only a few out of the total number of such Parisian societies. The proportion of learned associations formed in other parts of the country is as encouraging, while the development of the scientific spirit has been constant. Any one who compares the programme of the *Congrès scientifique* of Chartres, in September, 1869,¹ with the last session of the *Association française pour l'avancement des sciences* will be struck by the change which has taken place. The topics of religious archeology, of ecclesiastical history, and of Church interests, which were formerly dominant, have yielded their places to the discussion of the vital problems of our age. This association has done much for "the progress and diffusion of the sciences."

A State institution, the *Caisse des recherches scientifiques*, was founded by the Ministry of Public Instruction in 1900 to accumulate funds to further scientific activity. This organisation is likely, in course of time, to have a large income at its disposal. The French Institute grants every three years the prize of \$20,000, known as *Prix Osiris*, to the Frenchman who has signally contributed to the progress of science, or

¹ Lasteyrie, *Bibliographie des travaux historiques et archéologiques*, vol. I.

produced the most useful work, not to speak of Osiris's royal gift of \$5,000,000 to the Pasteur Institute. M. Albert Kahn, a most generous benefactor of French education in the past, pledged \$6,000 a year, for five years, to the purpose of inviting foreign scientists of note to go to Paris as lecturers, or for Frenchmen to go to other countries for the purpose of expounding their own discoveries.

Les Amis du Muséum give their sympathy and support to that institution, as other friends do with scientific establishments in other parts of the country. The Academy of Sciences, that of Medicine, and that of Moral and Political Sciences have numerous rewards in their keeping for scientific workers. Furthermore, these bodies enjoy, on the part of the most refined citizens and of those in power, a consideration which was singularly wanting under the last Empire. They have free speech now. All bodies representing science have contributed to promote more and more a sense of the kinship of all forms of knowledge, of the unity of all truths and of all sciences. The mathematical, the physical, the historical, the sociological, and the psychological sciences are all intrinsic parts of the same great field of science and are all interdependent. Everywhere we find among

scientific workers the idea that, whatever one's legitimate theories and hypotheses may be, these must ultimately rest upon observation and experiment.

By the side of this empiricism there is also found an idealism which leads these workers to the conviction that, whatever be the utilitarian value of this great collective labour for material or for moral ends, science should be studied for its own sake. In forming a moral estimate of France one should not forget this scientific idealism, which is an important asset in ethical reckonings, nor the general faith in the beneficence of knowledge. Along with this has come a national feeling of gratitude to scientists of the past. Buffon, Laplace, Lavoisier, Cuvier, Claude Bernard, Bichat, Berthelot, Henri Poincaré are idealised and revered. Lamarck and other forgotten scientific workers, who toiled for truth without recognition in their day, have now their statues or other memorials. Laënnec has his monument, a hospital bears his name, and Pasteur, cherished by the people, has become enshrined in his institute. France looks now at her illustrious scientists as once she viewed her saints; all have been forces of ethical uplift.

It is greatly to the credit of French scientists

that they should have so intimately co-ordinated themselves with those of the whole world. For them science ignores frontiers, and the best attitude is that which is ever ready to assimilate new knowledge, whatever be its source. Foreign countries have honoured them. In 1890 Henri Poincaré, at the Universal Congress of Mathematics in Stockholm, was awarded the Medal of Honour. M. and Mme. Curie, Henri Becquerel, Moissan, Laveran, Lippmann, Richet, Carrel, and Metchnikoff — the latter a Russian who has become thoroughly French — have received Nobel prizes. At the seventh International Zoological Congress, in Boston, August, 1909, the Czar Nicholas Prize was awarded to Professor L. Cuénot of Paris for his work on heredity. Foreign governments and universities have given similar and flattering recognition. Highly cultivated at home, French science radiates abroad. It is no longer the tolerated, neglected, and suspected study of four decades ago, coming in the scheme of education after the languages, with its spectacular experiments as mere shows for the students; science now is preponderant. It is fundamental in education and in other important realms of life. It is a power with which theology and philosophy must reckon. It has come to be written

with a large S. For many, science is now a kind of religion. It is the great, noisy idol of republicans with its enthusiastic devotees and even with its fanatics; a beneficent idol, however, freeing the land from ignorance, from superstitions, from needless terrors, and putting new energy into every organ of the nation's life.

CHAPTER VII

SOCIAL REFORM AND PHILANTHROPY

IN the domain of social improvement and philanthropy, the national energy has also displayed itself. The men in power have rendered their best services in this realm by showing an untiring solicitude for those who contribute so potently to the creation of wealth, the labouring classes. A very important departure, under the Republic, has been the creation of a Superior Council of Labour in connection with the Ministry of Commerce — a council which furnishes the Parliament with trustworthy data and reliable statistics on labour and on needed legislation. The establishment of a labour exchange in Paris, subsequently aided with a grant of \$600,000, and the foundation of 144 other exchanges¹ in large cities, indicate a real concern for the welfare of the masses. Clemenceau went further. He founded a Ministry of Labour, marking, thereby, a new era in the history of French institutions.

¹*Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

The government has favoured the formation of labour-unions of all kinds, and under conditions more beneficial for toilers. These have not infrequently been abusive when in trades-unions, cruel in strikes, and criminal in the senseless destruction of property; but as a whole the labour movement has meant greater independence, a clearer consciousness of the rights of the labourer and a certain education resulting from his desire to co-ordinate himself properly with his economic environment. His employers are no longer the baronial lords of the Second Empire, who acted as if they owned his soul. He is no more haunted by the fear of losing his position because of his vote or his Church.

Now he has a larger wage, works fewer days and fewer hours. The character of his work is less unpleasant. Shops and factories have become cleaner, more cheerful, and pleasanter. What is true of the industrial world is true of commerce. In all stores women clerks are now provided with seats. In government work the State insists upon a minimum wage. All have more and purer food. They have summer vacations, and summer outings are coming gradually within their reach. Life for them has been greatly transformed in half a century.

A fact which shows the improvement in their

condition is that the legislation of the last forty years has been mostly in their favour. The Parliament has passed laws on liability of employers in case of accidents, laws providing reliable inspectors for the security of the labourer in mines, inspectors of labour in general, laws to free workingmen from the *livret*, a book of identity placing the labourer at the mercy of his employer, laws preventing a child from working in factories unless provided with a certificate from some doctor that the labour is not above his strength, laws instituting juvenile courts, laws limiting the time of women's and children's labour as well as of labour in general, laws promoting arbitration between employers and employees, laws and appropriations to help the organisation of mutual-benefit societies, to further the State system of annuities to labourers by the payment of an annual fee, and laws providing for old-age pensions. One of the laws which was most violently combated by the opposition is that which accords to every French labourer the inalienable right to have one day of rest every week, and that on Sunday wherever it is practicable.

There is scarcely any limit to the legal efforts made in this direction. M. Paul Deschanel did not exaggerate when, at a banquet in Paris in

1909, he said: "The Republic has done more in thirty years for the workingman than the other régimes during several centuries."¹ At the same time, changed conditions, as we show elsewhere,² have brought an increase of wages and a lower cost of the necessities of life.

One of the leading factors in this improvement has been the organisation of labour-unions, which had a precarious existence under the third Bonaparte, but in 1911 had 15,668 *syndicats* of different kinds with at least 2,386,000 members.³ They exert an important moral and social influence. In 1905, 961 of these unions had employment bureaus; 1,059, libraries; 816, funds for mutual help; 690, funds for those without work, and 348 have professional schools or professional courses.⁴ The labourers of the country are put in touch with opportunities for work by means of numerous employment bureaus, by labour exchanges, by trades-unions, by municipal councils, by mutual-aid societies as well as by benevolent boards.

The idea of profit-sharing is represented by such admirable institutions as that of Godin in Guise, and that of Boucicaut at the Bon-Marché in Paris; but while in 1870 there were

¹ *Le Temps*, Nov. 26, 1909.

² See Chap. X, p. 209.

³ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

⁴ *L'Illustration*, "Documents," Nov. 11, 1905.

only 16 institutions practising it, in 1900 there were 120.¹ The distributive co-operative societies, only 39 in 1870, had in 1911 reached the number of 2,811, with sales approximating \$30,000,000.² The savings-banks had issued 2,021,228 bank-books with \$107,500,000 in 1871, but in 1911 there were 14,400,000 bank-books with deposits amounting to \$1,122,000,000. The Republic founded postal savings-banks and school savings-banks, which have done much to foster thrifty habits. A frequent reward in the common schools is a bank-book. Besides those founded by the government there are municipal and private savings-banks with a limited number of depositors. There are also associations like *La Fourmi* (The Ant), founded in 1879, in which depositors are pledged to pay so much per week or per month. At the end of a certain time a division is made. Before 1900 this society had collected \$5,400,000.

Organisations to provide against the contingencies of life meet more and more with popular patronage. The Second Empire gave some encouragement to mutual-aid societies. In 1871 there were 5,787 of them with a membership of 683,974 and a capital of \$7,500,000, while in

¹ *Catalogue officiel de l'exposition universelle*, 1900, vol. XVI.

² Gide, Charles, *op. cit.*, p. 232.

1910 there were 21,079 such societies, with a membership of 3,552,596 and a capital of \$68,287,437.¹ As these societies provide free medical service for their members, it was feared lest the law, which compels the town to give free medical care to the needy poor, would be fatal to mutual-aid societies; but these fears were groundless, and these organisations increased. As the number of patients helped by the towns was augmented, the members of the societies of mutual aid became more numerous. The town-helped patients, from 1895 to 1899, rose from 360,000 to 500,000, and the members of mutual-aid societies from 1,354,439 to 1,759,000.² School mutual-aid societies are of recent formation. In 1894 there were three in Paris and one in the country; in 1909 they had so multiplied that their membership reached 800,000.³ M. Léopold Mabillean, an enthusiastic worker in this direction, sets at 21,000 all the mutual-aid societies and at about 5,000,000 the number of mutualists of France.⁴

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

² Haussonville, Comte d', *Revue des Deux Mondes*, vol. 162, p. 792.

³ *Le Siècle*, Feb. 23, 1909. In these societies the pupils pay two cents a week. One is used to help sick members, and the other to provide an old-age pension in due time. The *mutualités scolaires* are followed by *mutualités post-scolaires*, which interest the pupil until he may join an adult society.

⁴ *Le Siècle*, Feb. 1, 1909.

The idea of old-age pensions has been more and more put into practice. The number of beneficiaries from the State have increased from 130,103 in 1871 to 280,002 in 1911, and the sums paid, from \$16,600,000 to \$54,784,000.¹ The government grants pensions to old soldiers, to aged public servants, to functionaries, and to teachers as well as to some seamen permanently liable to service in the navy. The State also compels miners to provide for old age by surrendering 2 per cent of their wages. This is duplicated by the employer and also by the country. In 1907 the Chamber of Deputies voted an old-age pension for labourers, which has been lately ratified by the Senate. This law, largely in the hands of the municipal councils, provided for the pay in 1911 of a small pension of \$36 a year to 577,816 individuals. In some cases a municipality may grant \$0.20 a day, which in France means daily bread for a labourer.²

Public opinion has moved so rapidly in this direction that many corporations of their own accord have put the principles of this law into practice and provided old-age pensions for 1,200,000 employees. The seven great railroad companies of France, in 1906, devoted \$15,400,000 to old-age pensions for their 200,000 ser-

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

² Gide, Charles, *op. cit.*, p. 452.

vants.¹ In 1906 these companies devoted to the social betterment of their employees sums equal to 21 per cent of their wages.² The Bank of France not only provides pensions and encourages the mutual-aid societies of its employees, but in 1908 it founded a *Société de prévoyance dotale*, a society to provide the children of employees with a dowry at the time of their marriage.³ The sum devoted by this institution to improve the condition of its *personnel* is \$5,000,000 a year.⁴ Furthermore, the State has an organisation whereby any individual may secure an old-age annuity by the payment of annual fees. The number of individuals who avail themselves of this institution is not large. In 1898 only 29,245 persons made payments for themselves, while the total number of beneficiaries was 235,184; that is, the greater part is paid by employers. The annuities paid that year amounted to \$6,891,700.

Insurance companies reimbursed that year \$15,000,000 in their annuity service. Insurance companies have greater success with individuals

¹ Guyot, Yves, *Le Siècle*, Dec. 15, 1908.

² Gide, Charles, *op. cit.*, p. 153.

³ *La Revue*, Jan. 1, 1909, p. 126.

⁴ In addition to salaries of the labourers, the iron works of Le Creusot adds 12 per cent, the Mame Printing Works of Tours 15.25 per cent, the cut-glass works of Baccarat 8 per cent, the coal mines of Anzin 11 per cent. (Gide, *op. cit.*, p. 154.)

who subscribe on their own account; for, from 1882 to 1898 their annuity service increased 300 per cent. Life insurance has had a prodigious development. From 1870 to 1898 the policies rose from 10,162¹ to 522,066, and the amounts insured from \$28,300,000 to \$781,000,000.² This reaches not only the rich and the well-to-do, but also people of limited means. Well-conducted life insurance appeals more and more to labourers, and the possibility of making small and frequent payments has contributed to the increase in the number of policies.

Rent-paying people are not so numerous as in many countries, for a majority of Frenchmen own their own homes, yet in some centres a large part of the poor population live in wretched quarters. The providing of healthy homes, a work taken up with apostolic zeal by M. Jules Siegfried, and now pushed forward by many building associations,³ will save workingmen from living in hovels where health as well as decency is impossible. The *Alliance d'hygiène sociale* and the *Société française des habitations à bon marché* have inspired many a poor workman to make efforts to have a house of his own, or to have a building association erect it. There

¹ *La Grande Encyclopédie*, vol. IV, "Assurance."

² *Catalogue officiel*, *ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

is also the work of the *Société anonyme de logements économiques pour familles nombreuses*, providing inexpensive apartments for families with numerous children.¹

Along this line may be mentioned the work of the Mining and Railroad societies, which have built some 60,000 houses for their operatives. Some rent these homes at a very low rate. In Baccarat the labourers are housed gratuitously. In Le Creusot they pay from \$1.60 to \$0.25 per month.² There is the princely gift of \$2,000,000 from the Rothschilds to build large, comfortable, and inexpensive blocks of houses for the better class of artisans and clerks; the *Hôtel meublé*, constructed by the *Société philanthropique* for single women;³ the *Logement pour dames des postes, télégraphes et téléphones*, a home for the women employed in post-offices;⁴ and *La Parisienne*, a large home founded by the Comte d'Haussonville, in which 150 young women may live for \$5 per month.

The general problem as well as the specific one, of housing has been taken up all over the country. By the side of the poor are people

¹ No family of less than three children may be admitted. The society is pledged not to pay more than 3 per cent to its stockholders. *Le Signal*, Oct. 29, 1907.

² Gide, *op. cit.*, p. 247.

³ *L'Illustration*, June 7, 1902.

⁴ *Ibid.*, July 22, 1905.

in humble circumstances, who are received in the *maisons de retraite*—a term which Miss Betham-Edwards has translated very appropriately, “associated homes.” There are homes in large seaports for sailors, so that, while ashore, they may be under good influence. We might speak of *L’Abri*, “The Shelter,” a society to help the worthy poor who through misfortune are unable to pay their rent. The object of this organisation is to stay eviction. Some 290 agencies put within the reach of 15,000 families small free gardens, where they may grow the vegetables they need.¹

The matter of sanitation has been taken up with earnestness and determination. Strict laws have conferred adequate powers upon those who have special care of the hygiene of the country. Scientific methods of arresting contagious diseases are rapidly accepted by the masses. Cities have made great sacrifices to obtain pure water, and plenty of it. Narrow, unhealthy streets are replaced by improved ones. There has never been such a destruction of hovels as during the last forty years. Almost everywhere the tendency is to give more space to houses, sometimes at the cost of fine, historic streets or of walls which are dismantled. The hygienist

¹ *Le Siècle*, Nov. 9, 1909.

scarcely stops before important monumental landmarks.

The work against tuberculosis has been created by the Republic. Not to speak of institutions inland, in 1901 there were 24 sanitariums on the coasts.¹ That of Hendaye, in the Pyrenees is a model institution. By the side of other agencies to fight this evil, in 1908, *L'Œuvre de la tuberculose humaine* gave 400,000 free consultations to tuberculous patients.² Through the new education the people have come to believe in the power of microbes, and also in that of science. Saint-Hubert, formerly the only hope of those bitten by mad dogs, has been replaced by the Pasteur Institute. The 2,671 cases treated in 1886 had a death-rate of 0.94 per cent, while in 1900 the 1,420 cases were fatal only to the extent of 0.28 per cent.³ The awful disease anthrax, so fatal to beasts and often to men, is rapidly diminishing through the Pasteur vaccination of cattle.

Innumerable efforts have been made to save human life, laying stress upon the harrowing problem of infantile mortality. The recent *Fondation Pierre Budin* is a practical school for the care and treatment of babies. There, apart

¹ *Conference of Charities*, 1902, p. 228.

² *Le Siècle*, Feb. 1, 1909.

³ *L'Illustration*, "Documents," July 13, 1901.

from the teaching of the mothers and the advice given to them in individual cases, the little ones are weighed, examined periodically, and their diet is superintended. It is a noble attempt to popularise our best knowledge among those who hitherto have been led only by impulse and often merely by instinct. Laws enacted under the Republic protect babies from those monstrous provincial nurses,¹ who had earned the only too appropriate name of *faiseuses d'anges*, "angel-makers," because of the large death-rate of the infants committed to their charge. The Roussel Law prevents these women from going out until their own infants are at least seven months old. Dispensaries have become numerous, while relief at home has been greatly extended.

The total expense for hospitals, asylums, and homes for the aged has risen from \$18,574,000 in 1871² to \$48,233,400 in 1911.³ Aged people, the infirm, and the incurable are taken care of by the State. The Republic has co-ordinated the town, the department, and the State organisations, and thereby has accelerated their action through the *Assistance publique*. The expenses of all local boards of charity, superin-

¹ Brieux, in his *Les Remplaçantes*, has laid bare the evil of the system.

² Fernandez, *op. cit.*, p. 354.

³ *The Statesman's Year Book*, 1907.

tended by this national instrument, were \$5,-200,000 in 1871 and \$9,200,000 in 1907. In the hospitals and *hospices*, old people's homes, the patients have increased from 48,159 in 1871 to 74,705 in 1911,¹ and the expenses have risen from \$16,400,000 to \$33,600,000. The children in these institutions have increased from 95,444 to 228,699 in 1911, and the expenses from \$2,000,000 to \$8,348,000.²

Abbé Gayraud sets at 100,000 the number of the sick, the infirm, and the aged, and at 60,000 the orphans in Roman Catholic institutions.³ There are small independent organisations for particular cases such as the *Association générale des Alsaciens* and the *Société de protection des Alsaciens*, which have spent more than \$600,000 each for this form of charity in twenty years.⁴ There is *La Maison Rossini* for aged artists, and *La Maison des comédiens* at Port-aux-Dames for aged actors. There are professional associations, providing orphanages for fatherless or motherless children of their organisations. There are institutions of this kind for artists' children, for the children of common-school teachers, for those of railroad employees, for those of Alsatians, for those of Freemasons, etc.

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

² *Ibid.*

³ *La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 93.

⁴ Scheurer-Kestner, *op. cit.*, p. 273.

Comte d'Haussonville sets at 1,400 the number of independent orphanages — the majority of them Catholic — in the country.¹

The increase in the number of institutions and the number of their inmates does not mean an increase of the needy, but that more of the needy are now helped who formerly were neglected. The Gavroche of Hugo would be a virtual impossibility now. Innumerable efforts are made to protect infants at home, such as institutions that furnish pure milk and those which take them away from cruel parents. The *crèches* are doing good work, but they labour against the popular feeling that what the children need is not more institutions, but more mothers restored to them by better social conditions. The same thing might be said about the *garderies* of children in the schools where the little ones are kept under proper supervision until the mothers return home from their work. In many of the schools *cantines scolaires* provide lunch for all at cost, and free for poor, underfed children;² and summer outings took, in 1910, 72,400 children to the country.³ When possible the rule is to scatter them in homes rather

¹ *Revue des Deux Mondes*, vol. CLXI, p. 787.

² In 1904, the schools of Paris served 10,660,000 meals. (Gorst, Sir John E., *The Children of the Nation*.)

³ *L'Illustration*, October 29, 1910.

than place them in large aggregations. The *Société pour la protection de l'enfance abandonnée et coupable* has extended its kind ministrations to more than 10,000 children,¹ while religious organisations deserve much credit for kindred work. Public opinion has moved in the direction of greater kindness toward illegitimate children, formerly treated like moral pariahs, as if they were responsible for the sins of their parents. Laws also have been voted to secure greater justice for them in the matter of inheritance.

As we have already seen, under the Republic the nation has strongly modified its attitude toward woman. As a girl, she has more education in the schools, more protection in the mill and in the street. Her status is as yet far from ideal, but the progress has been great. There are now works like the *Œuvre pour la répression de la traite des blanches* to fight organised prostitution; works to help young girls arriving in Paris, giving temporary help and sound advice; institutions to shelter them overnight; others, where the fallen may reform. Numerous organisations provide an inexpensive meal for shop girls; and one of the organisations, the *Réfectoire*, recently established, aims to furnish free meals to honest working girls without

¹ *La Revue*, Jan. 1, 1909, p. 125.

work. There are homes on the seashore for worn-out mothers. The *mutualités maternelles*, the labour exchanges for mothers, the *Asile Michelet*, the *Comité du refuge pour femmes enceintes*, the purpose of which is to relieve from hard work those who are about to become mothers, to free them from too exacting cares, or to enable them to gain strength before childbirth. The thought here is as much for the well-being of the expected offspring as for that of the mother. There is the *Asile George Sand* where, after their confinement, the mothers may be received with their children, and the *Asile Ledru-Rollin* when they have one child only. If they cannot support their child, it is received temporarily at the *Asile Léo-Delibes* or permanently elsewhere. The *Fondation Carnot* distributes annually sums of \$40.00 each to worthy widows with children. They had 99 beneficiaries in 1909.

No less important than what is done for women is what women are now doing for all, through their innumerable societies for social service. The *Société française de secours aux blessés*, though founded under the Empire, has received a signal development under the Republic. The new organisations, the *Association des dames françaises* and the *Union des femmes*

de France, had for their first work the care of the wounded, but they widened their aims to the relief of suffering in every direction. Their services during the present war must excite the admiration of all. The advent of lay women workers, which has lately been so marked, is one of the most evident marks of philanthropic progress. One could never have dreamed four decades ago that there was so much latent altruism in the nation. It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the extent and variety of works of relief, from the sanitarium for teachers to the *bouchée de pain*, bread distribution to the hungry; relief by work; help to families of shipwrecked seamen and to liberated prisoners.

To elevate the masses much has been done outside of the new education, of the more popular artistic culture, of the new legal and scientific environments. The *Laboratoires Bourbouze* are free laboratories placed at the disposal of workingmen for the study of physics, chemistry, electricity, photography, and micrography.¹ The *Universités populaires*, a species of workingmen's colleges, furnish an admirable complementary education for labourers, though it may be added that they have not been entirely successful. Libraries have become more numer-

¹ *Livret de l'étudiant*, 1908-1909, p. 137.

ous, lectures more frequent,¹ and they are almost always illustrated.

There are, moreover, the temperance societies, clubs of all kinds, from the Ultramontane clubs of M. de Mun² to those of extreme radicalism, the Young Men's Christian Associations,³ the work of *Les amis des foyers de soldat*, which is establishing popular clubs where soldiers, during their hours of leisure, may find a home, the societies of patronage for apprentices and for youth in general, gymnastic societies for national physical culture, musical associations, both choral and instrumental, tending in a general way to social elevation. Many of these organisations are the work of the toilers themselves. They have shown power of grouping, of social affinities and a spirit of social service, which has been a matter of astonishment for many. They have displayed a spirit of solidarity which, though not new, seems to have an unprecedented vitality.

We have indicated, only in a general way, what is done. Frenchmen, so divided upon

¹ Under the Empire it was difficult to secure permission to give these lectures, and when they were given, a representative of the police was present, and that, as a rule, at the expense of those who wished the lecture.

² Mun, Comte A. de, *Questions sociales, Discours politiques, Discours et écrits divers*.

³ These have been brought to their present state of efficiency through the generosity and guidance of Mr. James Stokes, of New York.

many issues, have endeavoured to make real the third term of the Republican motto: "Liberty, equality, and fraternity." The reading of any directory of the social and charitable works of Catholics,¹ the *Agenda protestant*, a list of Hebrew charities, the *Catalogue général officiel* of the Exposition of Paris, 1900,² the "Catalogue of French Exhibits of Social Economy, of Hygiene and Charities" at the St. Louis Exposition, and the annual discourses of the French Academy *sur les prix de vertu* is a revelation not only of French altruism, but of its growing momentum. The spirit of the teachings of Christianity, of Saint-Simon, of Fourier, and of the later idealists has abundantly entered into this work of social elevation. Some have even exalted this spirit into a religion, the religion of kindness. There is no doubt but that the old school of political economists called *l'école dure*, "the hard school," by Jules Simon, — a school which would do away with all charitable agencies on the ground that they prevent a healthy elimination, — has nearly disappeared.³ On the other hand, the former sentimental giving of alms is less frequent, though still extensively practised. The word "charity," in the

¹ See for Paris, Abbé Duplessy, *Paris religieux*, 1900.

² Vol. XVI.

³ Haussonville, *Revue des Deux Mondes*, vol. CLXI, p. 775.

sense of beneficence, has been filled with more genuine humanity and more intelligence. More heart controlled by more brain, is the dominant note of this progress in the social and philanthropic movement in France.

CHAPTER VIII

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND MORALITY

IN all countries moral conditions present grave problems. France is no exception. Divorces have risen from 4,123 in 1885 to 14,261 in 1910, suicides from 5,276 in 1871 to 9,629 in 1911; alcoholism has so increased that the French people, once the most temperate of Europe, now stand in the forefront of alcohol consumers. In some of the large centres of the North and the North-West the evil has become appalling. The inmates of hospitals for the insane have increased from 49,589 to 100,291.¹ The cases of delinquencies brought before "correctional tribunals" have risen from 172,388 in 1871 to 217,623 in 1911. By putting such figures together — and they are true figures — it is possible to make a most dismal picture; it is unfortunate that all the evidences of moral progress cannot also be put into mathematical formulæ, and thereby be made to throw some light upon the dark shadows which are only too real.

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

The country has passed through a period of mental, moral, and religious transformation, during which much that was conventional and artificial in morals, superstitious in religion, has been swept away with much that was priceless. Thus, instead of the old scandal of husband and wife living apart, now there is divorce, and in a Catholic country divorce causes a more shocking impression than partially concealed concubinage. Yet in spite of the outcry of the systematic enemies of divorce, the statistics of marriage are, on the whole, very encouraging. Furthermore, marriages are increasing. From 1880 to 1911 they rose from 279,000 to 312,000.¹

As to the birth-rate, whose low ebb has been frequently ascribed by the clergy to immorality and irreligion, it must be admitted that this phenomenon is general all over Europe. The argument that this brings France upon a footing of inferiority to Germany has value only for those who make military considerations paramount. The real superiority does not lie in number, but in the moral earnestness of individuals. From this point of view it may be honestly asked if the very high birth-rate of 36 per thousand for the French Canadians in the province of Quebec² suggests higher ethical

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913.

² Siegfried, A., *Le Canada*, p. 290.

motives than that of 22 per thousand in France. This birth-rate is still higher than that of several American states, which are far from being the least moral ones of the Union. Frenchmen at large are much perplexed over this question, which has been discussed in every great French periodical.¹ To grapple with it there was organised the *Alliance nationale pour l'accroissement de la population française*. Were this society merely to collect reliable data upon the many sides of the problem, it would doubtless render great services.

The increase of alcoholism is largely explained by the fact that France earns much of her daily bread through the culture of the vine — in some parts of the country it is the only possible culture. Again, the republicans, in their great extension of freedom, made no exception to the sale of alcohol, and consequently from 1881 to 1903 there were opened 110,000 new saloons.² So long as *cabarets* are so numerous the consumption of alcohol will remain extensive. According to the last report of the Minister of Justice there is an intimate correlation between crime and alcoholism. The classes making the

¹ See a series of articles upon "French Depopulation" in *La Revue hebdomadaire* for 1909. Those by M. Charles Gide, and by the Dean of the Law School of Paris, M. Ch. Lyon-Caen, are masterly.

² *L'Illustration*, Dec. 17, 1904.

most extensive use of drinks — fishermen, miners, truckmen, and factory hands — have the largest number of criminals.¹ The good sense, the intelligence, and the conscience of the country is arraying itself against intemperance. There is now an anti-alcoholic group in the Parliament, led by that distinguished and courageous deputy, M. Joseph Reinach. The Minister of War has taken a decided stand upon the question. The officers of the army are ordered to give lectures to their soldiers upon this evil. The teachers do the same work in their schools. Nearly two thousand anti-alcoholic societies are waging war upon distilled — not upon fermented — drinks, and many organisations are even taking more radical positions. The Academy of Sciences have given their moral support to this cause.

The attitude of the Parliament is such that one may expect two important reforms: one, the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of absinthe, and the other, the reduction of the number of saloons. The promoters of this movement are physicians, scientists, philanthropists of large culture, who, like M. Reinach, would say: "We know that the struggle against alcoholism is for our country, for our race, a

¹ *Le Temps*, Oct. 15, 1909.

question of life and death, of physical and intellectual health or of hopeless decadence." Never was a temperance crusade carried on more judiciously. As a result the Parliament has at last condemned absinthe and imposed important restrictions upon alcohol. Even before the war, there was a decrease in its use. Now the example of Russia and of England has notably affected public opinion.

The very intensity of modern civilisation has almost everywhere brought about an increase of mental diseases. However, one must not exaggerate this. The figures which we have given are not absolute indices of increase. Patients are now known and treated who formerly were almost unnoticed. If they were harmless and poor they were allowed to go about, and when rich, they were kept at home, often in absolute seclusion; now they are almost always sent to institutions. The mildest cases of those who are dependent upon the State have been scattered in families of rural districts with good results. Most of the hospitals for these patients have put into practice our greater knowledge of mental pathology and the idea of a greater kindness in dealing with these unfortunates. Suicides, bad in themselves, bad for society, bad every way, are not absolutely signs of moral retrogression.

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With the paroxysms of activity, of competition, of well-being, of pleasures and their concomitants, these deeds of despair were to be expected.

As to crime in its worst forms it is apparently decreasing, while in the cases of brawls and blows it is gaining.¹

The overstated charge of the conservatives, that much crime is left unpunished contains much truth. It is a fact that, in the humanisation of justice, juries and judges have been lenient with transgressors, not from indifference, corruption, or cowardice, but from a more philosophical and abstract conception of justice, or from the idea that delinquencies have in them a social element, for which the individual should not be punished. The humanistic movement has led republicans to apply too suddenly the ethics of the parable of the prodigal son to culprits. Formerly delinquents of almost every

¹ CONTENTIONS, CRIMES, AND PRISONS

	1871	1911
Cases for decision before justice of peace.	384,026	363,762
Cases for conciliation in court.....	57,341	12,365
Cases for conciliation out of court.....	2,250,523	1,203,999
Cases referred to correctional tribunals..	172,388	217,623
Cases of conviction for violence or crime.	3,955	1,919
Prisoners in "houses of arrest," prisons..	14,838	6,529
Convicts in local prisons.....	22,018	18,291
Convicts in reform schools.....	7,310	4,291

Annuaire statistique, 1913.

kind, called for military service, were incorporated into African companies; but the Parliament, thinking that the transgressions committed did not deserve such hard treatment, and hoping that the good element of the army would exert a bettering influence, placed these *repris de justice* in the regular army. The result of this was an alarming increase of crime among soldiers. The principle of moral contagion, which applies to right as well as to wrong, is a sound one; but in this case the reform was not sufficiently gradual or hedged with sufficient legal guarantees. The outcome was not calmly studied, but the opposition used it for partisan ends. As to crime in general, were the nation to spend a few millions more for a larger police force, it is certain that there would be a striking improvement.

A fair survey of French criminality shows that some forms of delinquencies have altogether disappeared, while the distressing feature of the present is the increase of juvenile crime. This, however, is no more exceptional in France than in Holland, Italy, and Germany.¹ England is favoured in this respect, because its benevolent societies have exported to the colonies orphans largely recruited from classes likely to yield

¹ Fouillée, A., *La France au point de vue moral*, p. 158.

many young delinquents. Catholics ascribe this juvenile moral lapse in France to the absence of religious instruction in the schools. Unfortunately for their claims, it is well known that the greatest periods of increase were at a time when the Catholic catechism was everywhere taught in the schools, and these schools were under the control of the Church. During the period from 1841-1851 the delinquencies rose from 14,781 to 22,251, that is, 33 per cent; from 1851 to 1861 the rise was from 22,251 to 25,733, or 15 per cent; while from 1881 to 1891, under unsectarian schools, there was an increase from 35,332 to 36,975, or a little less than 5 per cent.¹ *Le Temps* says, on the authority of Gabriel Tarde, that from 1830 to 1880, under the system of national Catholic schools and the absolute ascendancy of the clergy, juvenile delinquency had quadrupled in France, at least for boys.² Fair-minded men, like Fouillée and Tarde, have shown that the schools were not responsible for juvenile crime. Among the most potent causes pointed out are the phenomenal development of saloons, of the yellow press, of pornographic literature. In many cases of juvenile delinquents it was found that, for the most part, they had managed to avoid schools of any kind, and that

¹ *Ibid.*² March 20, 1897.

the crimes are performed between sixteen and twenty-one, when the average boy has been for some time out of school. In dealing with criminals, the Republic has been actuated less by social vengeance than by the purpose to save the culprit, less by the penitentiary idea than by the reformatory. Prisoners are subjected to a régime which will help them to earn their daily bread more easily when they leave prison, while the uneducated, under 35 years of age, are compelled to attend prison schools.

The most encouraging feature in the present situation is that the growth of every evil has called forth moral agencies to oppose it, while new institutions and new moral conceptions were imparting strength to the national life. It may astonish many to learn that for several years Paris had a Superior School of Morals in which the leading spirits of France discussed all possible questions of practical ethics. That institution has since evolved into a more comprehensive one, the School of High Social Studies, in which the foremost scholars and the foremost men of action throw all the light they can upon the great scientific, moral, and social issues of our time. More competence and good-will have never united in a more generous service. "The Union of Free Thinkers and

Free Believers," another organisation of ethical culture, discussed, on Sundays during 1908-1909, "Social Problems and Personal Duties," rallying many earnest men of large calibre.

There are between fifty and sixty societies banded together under the name of "Federation of Societies against Pornography" to oppose public licence. They all, often with great courage, fight the sale or exhibition of obscene engravings, obscene books, obscene and grossly immoral plays and kindred evils. Through these organisations, from 1891 to 1905, 915 cases of infamous immoral trade were referred to the courts, 1,846 individuals were accused, 761 were condemned to less than a year of imprisonment, and 16 to more.¹

The *Société des droits de l'homme* is ready anywhere to take the defence of those whose rights are disregarded. It takes up every year seven or eight thousand cases before the French tribunals.² It may be added here that the habit of litigation about trifles has lost much of its hold upon French peasants.

The former attitude of Frenchmen toward

¹ Bérenger, R., *Manuel pratique pour la lutte contre la pornographie*, p. 152. This little volume is an admirable study of the stricter laws of moral repression enacted by the Republic, the methods to be used by societies of moral reform, and the notable cases brought before the courts.

² *Le Signal*, Nov. 23, 1907.

animals has undergone a change. There has long been the efficient *Société protectrice des animaux*, and recently was founded *La Ligue française pour la protection du cheval*. The movement of greater kindness toward animals, strong and healthy as it is, has gone to the extreme of having, at Reuil, near Paris, a *Maison de santé pour les animaux*.¹

Besides all the agencies which make for morality there are those of the churches, which are quite potent. Religion is the greatest ally of morality. And, after all, is not this the point where the Christian and the Free Thinker may come to an understanding? What one aims at in the name of God, the other demands in the name of reason. The great moral principles in which Christian and rationalistic ethics concur, the Parliament requires to be taught in all the primary schools of the country.² That teaching not only clarifies moral consciousness, but also acts powerfully upon the pupils by moral suggestions which cannot but be efficient.

The censors of the Republic cannot deny the fact that, judged by their legislation, their organised efforts, and their education, Frenchmen have never displayed a deeper sense of responsi-

¹ *Le Siècle*, Oct. 26, 1909.

² See the chapter upon Moral Instruction.

bility and moral solidarity. Never have ethical problems been more prominent in the mind of the thinking *élite*. Never have moral considerations so determined French philosophical thought, and never were there so many books written on morals or on the moral aspects of education, of politics, philosophy, and sociology. The attitude of the best artists is no longer what it was under the Empire. The doctrine of art for art's sake has lost its former prominence, and some artists have substituted that of "art from life for life." The doctrine of the moral utility of art has never been preached to such an extent. Again, while literary men, like artists, are often unmoral and many immoral, there is now a moral purpose in much of contemporary literature which was absolutely wanting in by-gone days. This is especially true of the drama and of fiction. The leading writers themselves are better men than those of half a century ago.

The national idea is now less chauvinistic than ever before. To love one's country is no longer to hate that of another. At the time of the Tonkin expedition the motto of the Radicals in Parliament was, "Tonkin for the Tonkinese!" There is now a large body of Frenchmen who, in reference to the complications in North Africa, say, "Morocco for the Moroccans!" In

no country of the world is there a greater readiness than in France to accept the international golden rule. The thought of war is more and more revolting to Frenchmen. Justice and equity loom larger in the popular mind than force. When in 1907 the *Petit Parisien* had a plebiscite which called forth 15,000,000 votes upon the greatest Frenchman, the highest place was not given to a warrior, but to a scientist who ever preached peace — Pasteur. The second was awarded to Victor Hugo — the poet who in his best days exalted peace — and Napoleon came fourth. Another paper, by the same process, asked who are the great men, not yet in the Panthéon, who should be there. The men designated were Pasteur, Gambetta, Thiers, Parmentier, Curie, Denfert-Rochereau, Savorgnan de Brazza, Alexandre Dumas, and Lamartine. The only soldier in this list, Denfert-Rochereau, the heroic defender of Belfort, came sixth. The economist Frederic Passy and Judge J.-L. Renault, the authority upon international law, have received the Nobel prize for their peace work.

This is in perfect keeping with the standards of moral value at the present time. It may be fearlessly asserted that the fundamental conceptions of the basis of life have been renovated.

The idea of evolution and progress has replaced the old dogma of unchangeableness and of dead stability, which ignored the necessity for individuals and societies constantly to readjust themselves to ever-changing conditions. The asceticism of former days is passing away. The body is no longer the organ that must be weakened in order to strengthen the soul, the proud human reason is no longer to be humbled before a great ecclesiastical authority; but body and mind must be developed for social service.

The new conception of the body has led to great progress in sanitation, in hygiene and physical culture, while belief in the soundness of the light of reason has generated the movements of education and of scientific research which we have sketched. Labour, formerly viewed as Millet has represented it, a divine penance for man on account of sin, now seems more and more a factor of happiness. Nature no longer appears as a hard, harsh stepmother giving man a painfully earned morsel of bread; she is no longer, in French eyes, the divine scourge of a revengeful God, but the generous rewarder of intelligent and conscientious efforts. Matter, once associated in French public opinion with that which is gross, impure, and perishable, has come to be viewed as a mode of ex-

plaining the universe quite as mysterious as the spirit itself. In recasting their own thought in reference to man's place in human society, or in the cosmos, Frenchmen have largely freed themselves from systems built upon materialistic doctrines. There is a noticeable tendency to rise above the ethnic fatalism of polygenists like Gobineau, or mechanistic determinists like Taine.

There is also a visible inclination to discard the system of brutal ethics, built upon the doctrine of evolution as formulated by its illustrious founder, Charles Darwin. The ethical doctrine resting upon the principle of the struggle for the "survival of the fittest" has always been obnoxious to the Gallic admirers of the author of "The Origin of Species." They accepted his biological conclusions, but not the ethical inferences of his disciples. The principle of "cooperation" has gained ground over that of "struggle for existence." Renouvier claims that "man, rising above sheer biological evolution, has brought into human society the law of justice, of charity, and solidarity." M. Léon Bourgeois has changed the formula of Darwin by saying that life "is the struggle of each for the existence of all." Fouillée has made it "a struggle for coexistence," and Deschanel makes

it "the union for life." Clemenceau, with an earnestness that no one can question, says, "Socialism is social goodness in action; it is the intervention of all for the sake of the victim of the fatal vitality of others. . . . Man hinders man, I have said. Man also helps man. The help for life in the struggle for life is the order of life, born of the supreme law of solidarity of all."¹

Taken all in all, the trend of French ethics is not far from that of the Founder of Christianity. In the general life the word *duty* has come to take a larger place and to be more inclusive. Duty toward others has come to have the sense of duty toward ourselves. Morality is man's highest adaptation to the needs of all. The sense of moral obligation springs from moral convictions rather than from religious beliefs. The supremacy of conscience is more and more asserted. When members of juries in the department of Yonne refuse to swear in the name of God,² if they are sincere, their act is ethically superior to the blind or mechanical conformity of former days. Intellectual honesty has never been more honoured, nor casuistry more unpopular. Love of truth, not of pure knowledge, but of that apprehension of reality which tells upon our

¹ *La Mêlée sociale*, pp. xiv and xv.

² *Le Temps*, Aug. 7, 1909.

deepest life, is growing. A new conception of woman largely prevails, and that will have stupendous consequences. A greater respect for woman is growing. She often shows herself equal to her husband, when not superior, and young men have largely abandoned the former Roman idea of being husband-masters.¹ Though appearances might lead some to infer the contrary, French traditional virtues, such as family love, social cheerfulness, the prevalence of thrift, of economy, and the hatred of debts have never been more flourishing. As Comte d'Avenel says, "a thrifty people will never be a gambling people."² In the French army an officer is suspended for debts. Former conventional habits without any ethical motives have been greatly disturbed either by moral revolts or by new views of man's biological, economic, and social relations; but France has never had a keener sense of moral rectitude, of solidarity and, with all the failings that her critics magnify, she leans strongly to the side of genuine moral life.

¹ Faguet, E., *Propos littéraires*, vol. V, p. 205.

² *Le Français de mon temps*, p. 74.

CHAPTER IX

RELIGIOUS DOUBT AND RELIGION

TO form a just estimate of the real religious situation, we must not assume that everything which is unsatisfactory now was ideal at the end of the Second Empire. The *Athéisme et le péril social*¹ of Bishop Dupanloup paints a dismal picture of the religious situation at that time. The sermons of Protestant preachers present no brighter outlook.² That of Père Didon, in 1867, is no more hopeful than that which a Dominican would draw now.³ A former member of the same order, writing upon the Commune at its very close said: "What, then, is a people without a God? Philosophers had endeavoured to say, but facts have revealed it with a reality that defies words. The demonstration of social atheism is finished. Providence gave it for an hour the grandest of theatres, the freest of orgies and the most terrible of dramas. . . . There is the work of a people

¹ 1866.

² See Edmond de Pressensé, *Discours religieux*; Eugène Bersier, *Sermons*, vols. I, II, and III.

³ Raynaud (Père Stanislas), *Le Père Didon*, p. 52.

that has no longer any God.”¹ Voicing the bankruptcy of faith at the same period, Père Didon says: “We have been defeated, we were to be. We know neither how to command nor how to obey. We have lost the faith. A people without faith is doomed to defeat.”² In 1872 he speaks of irreligion as national.³

At the Protestant National Synod in the same year Guizot speaks of “a new explosion of anti-Christian ardour.”⁴ At the same session Pasteur Athanase Coquerel shows “atheism asserting itself with an energy of negation without precedent,” “the atheism of the street,” “atheism penetrating into all ranks of society,” “atheism in persons of all ages.”⁵ Another delegate states that the scientific trend has become little by little “positivistic and materialistic.”⁶ A little later, Père Didon glorifies “heaven which seems empty to the eyes of our sceptical generation.”⁷ In his sermons in Marseilles, the antagonism of irreligion is the leitmotif of his preaching.⁸ “In our land of France,” he says, “we are born Christians, we die Christians, but

¹ Loyson, H., *De la réforme catholique*, p. 105.

² Didon, Père J. H., *Lettres du Père Didon à un ami*, 1902, p. 2.

³ Raynaud, *op. cit.*, p. 92.

⁴ Bersier, E., *Histoire du Synode général de l'Eglise réformée*, 1872, vol. I, p. 290.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 153.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 148.

⁷ Didon, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

⁸ Raynaud, *op. cit.*, p. 105.

between the cradle and the grave passions speak like mistresses, scepticism invades our minds, material life with its vortices of business absorb our time, and we do not live like Christians. Faith is only at the two extremities of our life: the cradle which belongs to her, the grave which belongs to her also, and that is all.”¹

When the faith of the “cradle” and the “faith of the grave” is all, one may say that the vital faith of the nation is gone; but that we will not say, either of the early days of the Republic or of the present. The actual religious losses were not so great as represented then or as lamented now. A fair correction of the religious parallax will place us face to face with a more hopeful state of things. The loss which many Catholics deplore is their former ability to impose their belief. Professor Fonsegrive says with regret that two victories have been won by society over “the doctrine of Catholic truth — the coexistence of several religions in countries equally civilised, and the proclamation of independence of philosophical thought.”² There has

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 125. Abbé Gayraud, a former Dominican, now priest and deputy, thirty years later speaks in a similar manner: “The mass of electors have scarcely anything more from Catholicism than baptism, first communion, the forms of marriage and some of the practices of church attendance dictated by habits and social conventions.” (*La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 43.)

² Péchenard, Mgr. P. L., *Les Luites de l'Eglise*, p. 775.

been unquestionably a great nominal decline in formal membership. Abbé Cresty, in 1905, set at about eleven millions those in France who could properly be called Catholics.¹ This does not necessarily mean a real decrease of spiritual power, but that the Church has been relieved of a dead weight that was its bane. Its grave error was to consider these accretions as sterling religious values, and to speak of "Catholic France" in terms which were as gratifying to this body as they were misleading to all.

The stern fact was that the nation was moving away from its religious moorings. Now the priest has been deprived of his former non-religious power — the power which rendered him so unpopular under Napoleon and under Mac-Mahon. He has ceased to be the man through whom almost every one had to secure state-advancement in any career, or impunity from crime at the hand of the judge. No more is he the stepping-stone of the religious politician to office. He has no longer any Tartufe about him. No more can he molest the non-Catholic scholar or terrorise the luke-warm Catholic professor, or even the doubting one, by the prospect of dismissal. Even his pulpit is no longer a source of effectual religious threats. He must

¹ *L'Esprit nouveau dans l'action morale et religieuse*, p. 36.

convince, not command, his hearers. His parishioners expect from him more education and more culture — and he has it. Free-thinking opposition has called forth the latent intellectual energy of the priest, and anti-clericalism has really strengthened him in the conflict.

However, the repeated political defeats of clerical candidates show that the clergy have lost their former hold, and that the causes which they endorse are decidedly unpopular. As Comte G. d'Avenel, a distinguished French Catholic, puts it, Catholicism "has lost its material domination, the secular arm. It no longer leads the State and has no longer any place in the State. It has lost the masses; its temples, in a thousand places, are deserted."¹ Anti-clericalism is often synonymous with anti-religion. Socialism, long and bitterly antagonised by the priests, has become a unit against them. Science, attacked by the clergy, and remembering the treatment of its most distinguished spirits in former days, often counts every scientific advance as so much gained upon the spirit of obscurantism in the Church. Many Frenchmen have rejected conceptions of God unworthy of our age. The "revengeful God," the God defender of mechanical morality, the

¹ *Les Français de mon temps*, p. 165.

“God *gendarme* on behalf of capitalists,” are conceptions which retain their grasp upon the masses but are abandoned by thinkers. There are those — and they are not new — who hold sincerely that atheistical science unravels much better than anything else the enigma of the universe. Blatant, arrogant, and militant atheists exist, but they are not as common as might be supposed.¹

The churchless are far from indifferent to religious problems, and any able religious speaker will find hearers outside of the churches more easily than in America. In the early part of 1907 the *Mercure de France* organised a vast inquiry, asking eminent men “whether we are witnessing a dissolution or an evolution of religious thought?” The overwhelming majority of French contributors decided for the second alternative, that we are in the presence of a religious evolution.² The editor of that interesting symposium wisely says: “It is undeniable that religious studies have taken, of late years, an extraordinary development; never, perhaps, since the Reformation has there been such a display of curiosity for all that concerns religion, such labours of erudition, of criticism, and of

¹ Sabatier, P., *Lettre ouverte à S. E. le Cardinal Gibbons*, 1907, p. 16.

² *Mercure de France*, 1907, Nos. 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, and 241.

propaganda. There is in all countries the publication of works of the highest order upon religious questions; there is the creation or extension of reviews devoted to religious philosophy, to the history of religions, to controversies; there is the ever-increasing number of lectures and regular courses in which the religious idea is studied in all its manifestations. We must also recall the work done in France at the *Musée Guimet*, at the Practical School of High Studies, at the *Collège de France*, at the School of Anthropology, at the College of Social Sciences, at the School of High Social Studies, in denominational schools, and particularly the recent creation, at the Sorbonne, of several chairs of religious history, etc.”¹

Professor Th. Ruysen speaks of “the innumerable works which from year to year show the increasing prosperity of studies of objective religious philosophy. A special publication, a year book of religious philosophy, would not be too much to sum up the scientific researches encouraged by the curiosity of the public better and better informed.”²

The *Musée Guimet* gives to those interested in the study of comparative religions materials nowhere else available in the world. The *Col-*

¹ *Ibid.*, 236, p. 577.

² *L'Année psychologique*, 1909, p. 357.

lège de France has had for many years an admirable course of highly important scientific studies on religions. Professor Réville, long the incumbent of this chair, was a radical Unitarian, but a most candid and able scholar, ever insisting upon the transcendent importance of religion. Professor Loisy, recently elected to the same chair, is animated with a kindred spirit. The Practical School of High Studies in the Sorbonne has a score of courses by specialists devoted to the religions of the great peoples of the world, while the Sorbonne itself has now three chairs studying different periods in the history of Christianity.

The feeling grows that religion has been one of the fundamental determinants of the character of various civilisations. At the School of High Social Studies, where all the great questions of our time have been ably and honestly discussed, religion has also its place. The published lectures for 1903–1904 reveal a deep concern for belief on the part of all lecturers, and a profound sense of the social utility of religion.¹ The size of the audiences, along with their character, is also quite significant. There was never, during the preceding régime, such an intellectual zest for the problems of religion.

¹ *Religions et sociétés*, 1905.

The philosophers have given—and are still giving—a large place to this subject. They admit more and more the importance of religious feelings in the evolution of society and in comparative psychology, as well as the bearing of those feelings upon the various aspects of Metaphysics. The majority of them are ready to concede the practical value of the idea of God in ethics, as well as the great action of religious forces upon sociological phenomena. A philosophy is to be tested by its moral results. This accounts, in part at least, for the popularity of the religious addresses of Boutroux, and the large number of young priests at Bergson's lectures.

In the philosophical teaching of the secondary schools there is a general insistence upon the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. Binet says that he met far more scepticism in society than in his classes of philosophy.¹ The theological conceptions of the professors vary most widely, from the God of the theologians of Latin Christianity to that of the pantheists. They are no longer left to the necessity of accepting or rejecting a single definite conception of God as if it were the only one possible, but have other theistic alternatives. "Atheism," says M. Georges Lyon, "is excep-

¹ *Enseignement et religion*, 1907, p. 81.

tional in the French philosophical world.”¹ This opinion of the distinguished rector of the Academy of Lille has been again and again endorsed before the writer by other prominent speculative thinkers.

The introduction of philosophy into the domain of religion upon a new scale is visible in the works of the best Catholic and Protestant writers, in the theses of Protestant students and in the better class of sermons. While the cleavage which has taken place in the world of beliefs has arrayed, on the one side, many who have become unreligious and atheistic, a corresponding movement has taken place, on the other, toward a more positive faith. Atheists have become deists, deists have accepted a broad theism, the philosophical theists became for a time neo-Christians, the neo-Christians liberal Catholics, and some liberal Catholics have become ultramontane. Among those who have gravitated toward belief there has been a tendency to give, at every angle of the religious prism, a larger place to the mystical spirit without surrendering their philosophical ideals.

It is in part this tendency that has led toward the Catholic Church men like Brunetière, de

¹ “L’Evolution de l’enseignement philosophique,” in *L’Année philosophique*, 1908, p. 154.

Vogüé, Bourget, Coppée, Huysmans, and others who were Free Thinkers.¹ There is philosophical toleration in the Church sufficient to keep in it such distinguished scholars as Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, Georges Picot, Thureau-Dangin, Georges Goyau; scientists like Gaudry and Lapparent; philosophers like Boutroux and Ollé-Laprune; critics like Brunetière, Doumic, and lesser lights, who are not inclined to move backward. Whatever be the strenuous restrictions imposed from Rome, there is a large body of religious literature breathing a new spirit of rational certainty, of strong philosophical grasp of the basic truths of theology. Even a mere perusal of such works as the following will convince one that reason and science have never been more honoured by the Catholic thinkers of France: Abbé de Broglie, *Les conditions modernes de l'accord entre la foi et la raison*;² Fonsegrive, *Le Catholicisme et la religion de l'esprit*;³ Abbé Laberthonnière, *Essais de philosophie religieuse*;⁴ Abbé Klein, *Le Fait religieux et la manière de l'observer*;⁵ Abbé Denis, *Esquisse d'une apologie philosophique du christianisme*;⁶ Le P. La Barre, *La Vie du dogme catholique*;⁷ Le P. G. de Pascal,

¹ Sargeret, J., *Les grands convertis*; Abbé Delfour, *Les Contemporains*, 1895.

² 1903.

³ 1899.

⁴ 1903.

⁵ 1903.

⁶ 1898.

⁷ 1898.

Le Christianisme.¹ Catholic writers have able works also on the religious life of England and America, which will generate in the Church disappointing hopes² about the progress of Catholicism in those countries; but these books, none the less, represent philosophical and historical progress.

The same conclusions must be reached in reference to their reviews. They have, for example, *Le Correspondant*, the *Annales de philosophie chrétienne*, the *Revue des questions historiques*, the *Nouvelle revue théologique*, the *Etudes*, *La Réforme sociale*, the *Revue biblique*, *La Démocratie chrétienne*, the *Revue d'histoire et de littérature religieuse*, the *Revue de l'institut catholique de Paris*, etc., which are equally worthy with the publications of any other religious body of the world. They have largely developed, also, a popular press which we may call "yellow," a press which will do much harm to the Church by its extravagance and fanaticism, but the character of those above referred to deserves much praise. The publications founded long ago have come to a greater importance under

¹ 1903.

² Thureau-Dangin, *Le Catholicisme en Angleterre au XIX^e siècle*; *La Renaissance catholique en Angleterre au XIX^e siècle*; Brémond, Henri, *L'Inquiétude religieuse*, 1^{ère} série, 1902, and 2^{ème} série, 1909. See also books and review articles by Abbé Klein.

the Republic, while the others suggest enormous progress. They have even won over *La Revue des Deux Mondes*.

At the same time, the spiritual autocracy of the Vatican is as absolute as ever; the Gallican liberties, episcopal dignity and the independence of theological research are things of the past. Some bishops — not those appointed since the Separation — have endeavoured to modernise the education of their clergy and have advocated the study of science as a help to faith. In some ways the Catholic universities of Paris and of Lille have done nobly in introducing into their work modern critical and scientific methods, but with only very moderate success. Those who are leaning toward obscurantism are far more numerous. In the seminary of Issy — not in a distant part of France, but in Paris — a theological student asked how Noah could have fed all the animals in the ark, having so little room for provisions. The professor answered: "One may consider as probable that all animals in the ark suffered from sea-sickness and therefore had no need of food."¹

But whatever be the system of training, Catholic clergymen show a greater readiness to break away from the Church, and several hun-

¹ De Narfon, J., *op. cit.*, p. 357.

dred priests have left it during the last third of a century. Through the increase of intellectual honesty, the influence of the military service and the loss of political power by the clergy, there has been a wholesome elimination of the former doubtful and mercenary elements of the priesthood. Never was there a more active and aggressive spirit among young priests and never have the French clergy allied to a greater degree culture with devotion, and life with doctrine. If the growth of the orders is, as the ultramontanes assert, an index of spiritual progress, then there has never been a greater advance than during recent years. In any case one may say of the clergy, both secular and regular, that they have grown in intensity and earnestness where they are dominant, in intelligence and moral power where they have been in touch with the philosophical and scientific life. Politically and socially they move in a narrower range; they no longer reflect State prestige, but their real, lasting spiritual influence is greater. When they do not waste their energy in condemning, for the thousandth time, the wickedness of anti-clericals, their spirit is that of a large evangelism permeated with earnestness and poetry. Some of them lay stress upon natural virtues as preferable to super-

natural and passive ones, though they believe in both. As in the past, they insist upon the immutability of their Church; but, strange as it may seem, they now speak also of her progress and of her wonderful adaptability to changed conditions. Apart from their innumerable efforts in France, they are leading in Catholic missions. M. Eugène Louvet states that they have in the mission field 8,500 French priests, 33,600 French nuns, and about 3,600 French friars.¹

There has also been a great change in the laity. Hitherto the bishops used this element for agitation — they still do — but it has become more active in the Church. Laymen are no longer the indifferent, passive, voiceless people of four decades ago, whose religion was absolutely formal. Several laymen of eminence have written books which Catholic leaders should heed, such as that of Julien de Narfon's *Vers l'Eglise libre*; L. Chainé's *Les Catholiques français et leurs difficultés actuelles*; Doctor Marcel Rifaux's *Les Conditions de retour au catholicisme*; and Comte G. d'Avenel's *Les Français de mon temps*. The country never had more Catholics of an earnest, genuine faith, willing to stand as faithful witnesses to their principles, than now.

¹ Quoted by Abbé Gayraud, *op. cit.*, p. 78.

But while that is the case, they never had a better opportunity to do religious work. The present war affected them profoundly and gave them a chance to display their best traits.

Protestants have undergone losses and made gains also, but, as we show elsewhere,¹ they have never been more genuinely active or influential. Israelites lay now less stress upon their racial claims, and show signs not a few of a clearer religious consciousness and a growing altruism. It may be positively asserted that they have been foremost among religious bodies as generous givers to objects of general interest.

The French are far more religious than they seem. The condition which we have set forth in the foregoing pages shows a depth of serious thinking which expresses itself strongly at the hour of crisis. The conflict has revealed the force of these convictions by more outward manifestations, but they were there. It has called forth the best spirit of Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and Free Thinkers alike. At the critical hour the differences that had separated them were bridged both in private life, and especially at the front. Religion, which is the conscious union of man with God, is also the greatest tie that binds man to man. The clergy

¹ See Chap. XV.

of the several religious bodies have done splendid service in a really catholic spirit. Often priests have offered the last comforts of religion to Protestants, pastors have invoked divine blessings upon Catholics and Hebrews at their last hour, and rabbis have forgotten the exclusive practices of former days to perform the last rites upon the bodies of their Catholic and Protestant comrades. Most Free Thinkers have found in their theistic convictions the strength to die like courageous patriots. All have had a common faith in a supreme justice and a supreme mercy to which they appealed in their supreme need. Almost all of them in dying would have voiced their faith in the phrase of the poet: "Thou wilt not leave us in the dust."

CHAPTER X

THE CONTEMPORARY FRENCHMAN IN THE NEW LIFE

THE consequences of the progress which we have sketched manifest themselves in many ways. The material environments of the contemporary Frenchman have been strikingly improved. The writer has known a village for fifty years, during which the population has remained stationary, but the homes are much larger and nearly twice as numerous. From 1871 to 1907 there were built in France 1,300,000 more homes than were torn down. The huts with only one window are growing fewer, while the new erections have generally more than five windows.¹ The mud houses with thatched roofs are now viewed by the people as the relics of bygone days. The peasant who under the Empire spent his evenings in the dark, or made a most moderate use of tallow candles, is now provided with

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1909.

abundant petroleum.¹ The introduction and wide distribution of this oil among the masses has created a revolution in their habits. Instead of spending their long winter evenings in relative darkness, now they have an inexpensive light which enables them to read or work. Paris, as well as other large centres, used sparingly wax candles and vegetal oil-lamps, with a little gas; now the city has the most modern means of lighting with artistic fixtures, the beauty of which remains unsurpassed anywhere. The use of coal for all purposes has more than trebled.²

The adulteration of food is more clever and more frequent than before, though it is severely punished when detected;³ it may be doubted, however, if this fraud in the quality of food—when it exists—is more detrimental to health than the deterioration which formerly came from ignorance and lack of adequate means to preserve it. As a whole, food is far more abundant and much better than under the Empire. Even in the most backward villages the range of comestibles has been greatly widened. In

¹ The use of kerosene has passed from 1.89 lbs. per inhabitant in 1871, to 24.64 lbs. in 1911. The price of the oil has decreased from \$0.0225 per pound to \$0.01.

² From 18,860,000 it has increased to 59,530,000 tons.

³ Laboratories are being established in most cities for its detection.

rural districts, not to speak of cities, grocers have trebled and quadrupled the articles of food which they keep. Butchers are unanimous in maintaining that the inferior cuts of meat have not increased in price, but because so many people now desire the better pieces the price of these has gone up. There has been a large increase in the use of almost all articles of food.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD PER INHABITANT

	1871	1911
Wheat.....	6.5 bushels	9.90 bushels
Potatoes.....	512 pounds	717 pounds
Sugar.....	17.16 pounds	38.50 pounds
Wine.....	16.5 gallons	23 gallons
Beer.....	4.77 gallons	9 gallons
Tea.....	0.015 pound	0.033 pound
Coffee.....	2.42 pounds	6.17 pounds
Cacao.....	0.48 pound	1.49 pounds

From 1895 to 1910 the use of the following foodstuffs per inhabitant, in Paris, has ascended 48.2 per cent for fish, 4.7 for meats, 3.3. for butter, 20.7 for cheese, 35.5 for eggs, 135 for cider, 27.9 for wines.¹

On all sides are evidences that Frenchmen at large are better fed and for less money. The following table is instructive:

¹ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 62.

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COMPARATIVE PRICES OF COMESTIBLES

	1871	1907
Wheat.....	\$2.00 per bus.	\$0.93 per bus.
Rye.....	1.38 " "	.97 " "
Corn.....	1.37 " "	.97 " "
Barley.....	.82 " "	.66 " "
Oats.....	.61 " "	.54 " "
Flour.....	.043 " lb.	.018 " lb.
Potatoes.....	.55 " 100 lbs.	1.10 " 100 lbs.
Rice.....	.04 " lb.	.025 " lb.
Butter.....	.32 " "	.31 " "
Sugar.....	.08 " "	.03 " "
Coffee.....	.15 " "	.10 " "
Cacao.....	.15 " "	.17 " "
Cheese.....	.16 " "	.12 " "
Salted meat.....	.11 " "	.16 " "
Beef.....	.07 " "	.075 " "
Mutton.....	.08 " "	.085 " "

At the same time wages have risen. In 1872 farm-hands received \$0.44 and other labourers \$0.62 per day; in 1900 the average pay for non-trained workmen outside of Paris was about \$0.84.¹ The wages of artisans and trained workmen have risen from 1870 to 1900 in a proportion represented by 0.76 and 1.04, while the cost of food and lodging of the same persons has dropped from 1.05 to 1.00, and the buying power of wages, though these men work fewer hours, has increased from 0.72 in 1872 to 1.00 in 1900.²

A great change has also taken place in the

¹ *Catalogue officiel de l'Exposition universelle de Paris*, vol. XVI.

² *Annuaire statistique*, 1909.

matter of external well-being. In the use of clothing, it may be regretted that the dress of the people, especially in the provinces, has lost something of its quaintness and picturesqueness; but this has been amply compensated by a better and larger provision of wearing apparel. The use of cotton per capita has increased from 5.94 pounds to 11.44 pounds; wool from 11.44 pounds to 12.76 pounds; silk has remained stationary. During the last fifteen years there has been an increase of 249,040,000 pounds of textile raw material, devoted either to clothe the people or to make fine fabrics for exportation.¹ What has greatly contributed to a better national clothing is the lower price of raw textile material.² This and the general economic progress have put within the reach of the masses many things once the prerogatives only of the well-to-do. Where the children of the poor were shoeless under the Empire, now most of them have shoes, and wooden

¹ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 176.

² COMPARATIVE PRICES OF TEXTILE MATERIAL PER POUND

	1871	1907
Wool.....	\$0.25	\$0.21
Cotton.....	.17	.16
Stripped hemp.....	.10	.08
Stripped flax.....	.15	.09
Silk	6.36	4.41

shoes are more and more discarded. Where watches were carried only by those in easy circumstances, now not only operatives but even peasants have them. Bicycles have become very common. Motor-cycles and tricycles have also been popularised. Automobiles have been multiplied so that even people of moderate means own them.

The Frenchman travels much more. While thirty-two years ago he averaged only 3.7 rides a year on the railroads, he now indulges in 6.7. Where he rode 81 miles, now he covers 133. Though railroad fares have been lowered, he spends now \$1.88 a year instead of \$1.36. The railroads now transport 7,701 pounds of merchandise for him instead of 3,680 pounds.¹ Travel for pleasure and for education has been promoted by the greater comfort of the cars, by the rapidity of the trains, and by a fine literature which interests the Frenchman in the beauty and the historic associations of his own land. Over two hundred and fifty *syndicats d'initiative* in the provinces² make great efforts to encourage travel in their own parts of the country. The *Club alpin français* has called attention to the beauty of the mountainous districts and given a strong impetus to mountain-

¹ Théry, *ibid.*, p. 222.

² *Le Siècle*, Oct. 28, 1909.

climbing and sight-seeing. The Automobile Club has done a kindred work for the country at large. The Touring Club has inspired and facilitated travel, securing lower rates for its members, waging war upon poor hotels, and pointing out good ones, urging the authorities to improve roads, helping the State to build new ones, re-wooding denuded hills, and in many ways furthering the cause of intelligent, educational, and profitable touring. M. Mille-
rand, Minister of Public Works, founded in his department of the executive the *Office du tourisme*, thereby bringing the State to co-operate with all agencies to further travel at home.

As a result of this movement, the Frenchman has come to discover his own country, and to be struck not only with the attractiveness of France, which has so thoroughly welded peoples of different affinities, but by the infinite charm of the social condition thereby created, the monuments which recall these great changes, and the beautiful scenery which often crowns the whole. He wishes to protect all this from the vandalism of commerce or from the blind utilitarianism of some industries. To that end was founded the *Société pour la protection des paysages de France*. This association has succeeded in having the Parliament establish a

committee of artistic landscapes in every department in order to preserve them. Furthermore, the society makes a systematic opposition to engineers who deface fine views or to vulgar advertisers who in every country spoil much of our pleasure.

The Frenchman has broken through the barriers of a narrow nationalism. The tendencies of his mind have always been in the direction of an abstract universalism, but of late years he has manifested the most genuine interest in what other people do. Hence he has been open to foreign influences. Russia, Scandinavia, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States have touched his life most profoundly and in a multitude of directions. While this is true of high culture and of commerce, it is so to a remarkable extent with learned societies and other organisations which, whatever be their specific aims, create international good-will and amity. There are the *Alliance franco-britannique*, the *Société franco-écossaise*, the *Société d'études italiennes*, the *Ligue franco-italienne*, the *Société espagnole d'excursions*, the *Société sinigo-japonaise*, and the *Comité France-Amérique*, and many others. There is quite a number of really international societies, such as the *Société d'études et de correspondance internationale*, the

Société d'échange international des enfants et des jeunes gens, the *Société internationale des études de questions d'assistance*, the *Alliance universitaire internationale*, not to mention many others which constitute numerous personal and social ties between the Frenchman and representatives of other nationalities. Home travel has led to more foreign travel. The Frenchman now visits other countries; he becomes now and then an explorer and even a globe-trotter. His publicists can speak more intelligently of world politics and of world interests. He has not only learned foreign languages, but he has been equally anxious to impart his own. If, by the side of the work done in the schools and lycées, he has the *Société pour la propagation des langues étrangères* in France, and the *Société des études des langues étrangères*, he has also the *Alliance française*, whose efforts are to spread the French language in every part of the world.

Education has become the prerogative of nearly every one. In thirty-three years the pupils able to read and write have risen from 52,350 to 73,001; those having a better education from 176,388 to 208,012; those with a diploma of primary education from a small number¹ to 6,226; bachelors of letters, of

¹ 947 in 1878.

science, or of any other secondary study from 1,507 to 6,988.¹ Life itself has become more educational by travel, military service, widely read literature, and the periodical press. The progress of the latter gives us many indices of wider aims and of a larger culture. Of the 84 agricultural papers of to-day 56 were founded under the Republic. Of the 22 publications devoted to architecture 15 were started since 1870. Of the 62 papers devoted to associations 45 were created under Republican rule; of the 51 on fine arts 42; of the 54 on bibliography 38; of the 59 colonial papers 52; of the 61 on commerce 39; of the 16 on cooking 14; of the 60 papers and reviews upon political, social, and domestic economy 49; of the 16 women's papers 13; of the 270 on finances 177; of the 76 on industry 52; of the 96 on education 74; of the 32 devoted to literature 29; of the 299 for medicine, surgery, and hygiene 225; of the 19 on metallurgy 10; of the 41 on music 28; of the 130 Catholic papers 93; of the 203 reviews, literary, political, and of high culture, 134; and of the 84 scientific papers 56.² The evidence of the progress of widening and radiating interest may also

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1909.

² *Annuaire de la presse française et étrangère*, 1909. These statistics are not absolutely accurate; but when there was any doubt, the benefit of it was given to the publications issued before the Republic.

be seen in those annual publications devoted to a peculiar subject, as science, art, or life, like the *Année biologique*, *Année psychologique*, *Année politique*, *Année cartographique*, *Année industrielle*, and scores of kindred publications, significant alike for the activities which they record, and for the serious interests which they keep up in a multitude of readers. All these facts point to the growth of a larger culture and intelligence on the part of the French people. Few are the democracies which have witnessed such a deepening of their mental life in such a short time.

With the progress just referred to has come a more specific knowledge in every direction. This has told potently upon sanitary laws and better provisions for general health. The Republic recognises the right of the helpless to receive medical aid from society. The nursing of the poor, like that of the rich, is more and more done by trained persons. Medical science and skill are more available. From 1881 to 1902 those professionally concerned with public health have increased from 25,914 to 40,605.¹ Medical and surgical societies contribute potently to the efficiency of this service. Public health has become a matter of national concern.

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1909.

Physical culture has rapidly won its way all over the country, notwithstanding the ascetic spirit of the historic Church. Gymnastic and sporting societies of all kinds have been formed to develop the body. Even those who, upon religious grounds, objected to this have themselves been compelled to organise athletic organisations and schools of physical culture to keep their young people. In all educational institutions this physical training has now some place. A national organisation, *La ligue française de l'éducation physique*, advocates the gospel of a methodic and rational physical education.

Some consequences were bound to follow. One of them is the larger size of Frenchmen. The study of the measurements of conscripts from 1872 to 1911 leaves no doubt as to this.

PERCENTAGE OF THE RELATIVE HEIGHT OF
CONSCRIPTS

	1 m. 54 TO 1.62	1 m. 63	1 m. 64	1 m. 65	1.66	1.67 TO 1.69	1.70 TO 1.72	1.73 AND ABOVE
1872	31.7	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.3	16.7	12.4	10.0
1911	26.7	6.3	6.5	7.7	6.7	17.7	13.5	12.8

One sees that the decrease from 1 m. 54 to 1 m. 67 is constant and that there is a continuous gain from 1 m. 67 to the greatest height.¹

¹ *Annuaire statistique*, 1913. In 1872, conscripts under 1 m. 54 were not included in statistics, so that the writer does not give them in the report for 1911.

Another consequence of the new condition is a lower death-rate. This has been most visible in the diminution of infantile mortality. Doctor E. Barthier says that it was 42 per cent for the whole country from 1800 to 1874, and 18 per cent for legitimate and 24 per cent for illegitimate children from 1874 to 1900.¹

Those dying under one year of age numbered 147 per thousand in 1872, and 116 in 1906.² During the same period the death-rate for the nation decreased from 22.5 per thousand to 19.5. From 1872 to 1901 the population from 60 to 79 years of age rose from 3,910,000 to 4,418,000, and that above 80 years from 267,000 to 352,000; in other words, sexagenarians and septuagenarians increased from 10.83 per cent of the total population to 11.50, and octogenarians and nonagenarians from 0.74 to 1.05.³ The total number of deaths averaged 848,111 during the period of 1884 to 1891, while from 1899 to 1906 the average was only 785,523 — a difference of 62,588 a year.⁴

Social conditions have also undergone great changes. While the former classes, not to say castes, still exist, there has been a process of social interpenetration which has introduced

¹ *Pages libres*, June 16, 1906.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Annuaire statistique*, 1909.

⁴ Théry, *op. cit.*, p. 326.

Jewesses and Americans into the nobility, the sons of the people into the higher clergy, and new elements into the professional classes. Now the sons choose, more often than under the Empire, a profession other than that of their father; and when they have made a choice, they are not riveted to it for life. The school teachers and the professors, who previously seemed permanently chained to their calling until they were superannuated, now often become journalists, dramatic critics, lecturers, writers, or deputies. Philosophers find a field outside of the schools. Priests leave their church without calling forth the bitter and relentless persecutions of former days. Classes and professions do not, as in bygone days, hold a man forever; he may adjust himself to opportunities unknown to his predecessors. Though M. Bazin, in his *La Terre qui meurt*, deplores the fact that French peasants leave agricultural districts, they do so to improve their material, and often their moral, condition. The greater number of them are right in so doing. By his displacement the peasant learns something. If he returns to his hamlet, as a rule he has received a valuable schooling. The labourer at large may, if he chooses, join the labour organisations which have become numerous and influential.

Through them he may secure what formerly was out of his reach.

The most prominent feature of French society during the last forty years has been the voluntary socialisation of men in every realm, giving new hopes and new aspirations. This has been true of philosophers, psychologists, scientists, physicians, surgeons, educators, manufacturers, artists, writers, philanthropists, etc. These societies constitute the most unmistakable evidences of the unparalleled efforts of Frenchmen and of their great united purpose in their several spheres. Everywhere work has become more co-operative and collective. Labour organisations are only parts of this larger movement of co-ordinated action of groups of individuals. Still the unions which band together masses of unreflective toilers, formerly accepting as a divine rule the mischievous iron hand that held them down, are a new phenomenon in French society. Labourers, conscious of their power, have endeavoured to rise by association. They have experimented with that principle upon a colossal scale, often making mistakes; not infrequently they have been the victims of their leaders, but in the experience they have risen.

The rise of these large organisations was not without peril for the government and for indi-

vidual liberty. By the force of things these large bodies were bound to clash with the powers that be. As was to be expected, there were contentions for proper adjustments which French journalists so easily call *crises*: the clerical crisis, the military crisis, the commercial crisis, the labour-union crisis, the vine-growers' crisis, the liquor-dealers' and saloon-keepers' crisis, and others. Great organisations in all countries have always, openly or secretly, aspired to lord it over political institutions. The clergy have been prominent in this respect. The army, or rather its chiefs, during the Dreyfus campaign, uttered threats not a few against the government; but they knew that soldiers were intensely patriotic as well as Republicans, so that these officers remained loyal. Commercial men have acted as if commercial interests should be paramount and trade considerations should override other national issues. Most of the great labour-unions have shown considerable unrest, as if they were not satisfied with the purpose for which they were organised, and wished to lay their hands upon the political machinery for their advantage. Even State servants formed unions which did not shrink from striking, and thereby paralysing the national life.

Potent as the labour-unions are, they represent only one-sixteenth of industrial labourers, and the *Confédération générale du travail*, the most militant body, constitutes only 5 per cent of the whole, and only a minority of the members of this organisation are revolutionary.¹ At the same time it must be remembered that, if the nation approves trades-unions, it condemns emphatically the dictatorial aspirations of some groups and the tyranny of others. Strong in their own sphere, they will arouse the whole nation against them as soon as they attempt to go beyond. Again, great organisations will be a check upon one another, and will do for freedom what denominations have accomplished in Protestant countries for religious liberty. With all the restrictions and tyranny which they have exercised, the individual toiler has a better chance in the struggle of life; and notwithstanding the despotism of numbers, individuals have not been prevented from rising. Never had the country such a host of self-made men. They are to be seen in every walk of life, in the Church, the army, the universities, the studios of artists, the French Institute, and the most eminent positions of the land. It has been as easy for poor young Brunetière to be-

¹ *Le Siècle*, Oct. 13, 1908; *Le Temps*, June 29, 1909.

come the greatest critic of France as for the tanner boy, Félix Faure, to become its president. The road to distinction, through labour and personal worth, has never been wider, though in it, as before, are also the time-servers and politicians who find greater chances for the use of their peculiar talents.

The fundamental working principle of political life has been also modified. Men do not look up as before to State officials, but State officials look up to them. The functionary is at every point concerned with the opinions of the masses, often more than with that of his chiefs. While in former days dealers went to great centres to buy their goods and now drummers bring their wares to the merchant, at the present time government agents serve the citizen in his village or in his hamlet. The villager no longer goes to the county-seat to pay his taxes, but the tax-collector comes to him. Schools, post-offices, telegraphs and telephones, police headquarters, justices of peace, hospitals, and kindred institutions are where men are. To the government of paternalism on behalf of the classes has succeeded a government of service for the masses. The privileges of the few with their attendant evils have become the boon of the many with similar evils indeed, but with the difference that now these evils can be at-

tacked freely in Parliament, in the courts, or in the press.

The high achievement of the Republic is that, in the great grinding political machinery of France, man counts for more than at any other period of her history. Life means more bread and more material well-being, more social, more political, more economic freedom, and, taken all in all, more ideal. Citizens have more moral buoyancy, larger intellectual compass, a deeper and a clearer consciousness of their own worth. The tendency may have been to do too much for the lower classes; but one must admit that aristocracy has never had freer opportunities to lead its own wasteful, indolent, and superficial life. Like the nation, it has grown richer and in some ways better. Marriages with rich heiresses, Jewish or American, have brought new blood and new moral energy among them. They do not now have the contempt of former days for work. Some of them have become leaders in great industries, and not a few have won distinction in other realms. According to Comte G. d'Avenel there has been an unconscious democratisation of the nobility.¹ There has been among them a considerable infiltration of the moral ideas which have so deeply affected Republicans. Similarly, it is an encouraging

¹ "Ce qu'il reste d'aristocratie," in *Les Français de mon temps*.

fact that nobles of genuine moral worth, like M. de Mun, for instance, have never been more respected.

With all its falterings, the present government is the least objectionable and the longest which the country has had since Louis XV, and the most progressive which the French people have ever known. When one examines the innumerable evidences of the progress of the nation, one grows indignant at the ignorance or bad faith of the reactionaries who speak of its "decadence." The writer has asked some of them what period of French history they would choose in preference to that of to-day—a period in which a man of large culture and generous impulse would rather live. The reign of Louis XIV? or that of Louis XV? The Revolution? The First Empire with its wars and its despotism? The *Restauration* with its blind and revengeful reactions? The grey, commonplace *bourgeois* reign of the Orleanists? The Second Empire, with the *coup d'Etat*, ending at Sedan with an interlude of eighteen years of an unblushing absolutism and corruption? No! No! In some way or other, they are all compelled to admit that Republican France of to-day stands upon a higher plane, is working out a better and a broader civilisation, notwithstanding all the

evils that there, as elsewhere, are the shadows in a beautiful picture.

To the impertinent question which no intelligent student should ask, "Is France declining?" Max Nordau answered wisely: "There are in France certain social groups and classes which are absolutely declining. But this is fortunate for the country. France itself is rapidly progressing, and is at present passing through one of the most brilliant periods of its history. Morally and intellectually France stands in the forefront among civilised nations. Its science, its literature, and its art are superior to most of them and inferior to none. France occupies now a position to which others will come later. The only dark point on its horizon might be the decrease of births. But here also France is a precursor. The same demographic phenomena follow inevitably the advance of civilisation. And when this is repeated elsewhere it ceases to be a source of anxiety. It is simply an expression of the fact that the reason and foresight of the nation make themselves evident in a domain where a lower grade of civilisation permits blind instinct to decide. The Frenchman who is not proud of his nation must be a highly peculiar and ungrateful individual."¹

¹ *Boston Transcript*, May 9, 1904.

To the same question Edmund Gosse replied: "My answer is decidedly and emphatically, 'No!' What does the word 'decline' mean? Is it not an expression which scared people often use to conceal their fear of everything that is new, bold, and progressive? The only declining peoples are those who do not dare to make a change, who are always afraid to encourage new movements. Strong, powerful nations are always making new experiments, which cause the timid to tremble and cry out. Wherever we look around us in the world we find no nation of which it can more unjustly be said that it is in decline than France. In my opinion there is no country so full of intellectual buoyancy and hopefulness, no country which offers the observer so many sources of real life, and which so fascinates the thinker as France. Is France in decline? If by decline you mean development, life's most painful metamorphosis—Yes! But if by decline you mean ennui, impotence, decline in the moral and intellectual temperature—a thousand times No!"¹ There could be no better answer.

¹ *Ibid.*

CHAPTER XI

MORAL INSTRUCTION IN FRENCH SCHOOLS ¹

WE have already referred to the remarkable work of French education. "Thanks," says M. Fouillée, "to a noble and generous *mouvement*, Republican France, at the end of the nineteenth century, has adorned herself with schools, as, after the terror of the year 1000, she adorned herself with churches." Faith in the power of the school has eclipsed, in many parts of the land, faith in the efficiency of the Church. The changes in the educational spirit are no less marked. The central aim of education, which was for so long the enlargement of the mind, has also become the direction of conduct and the development of character.

It was said by the Conservatives that the freedom — which they call license — of the Republic would be fatal to morality and religion. Whatever may have been the moral excesses of a period of transition, it is certain that there has

¹ Reprinted from *The Educational Review*, April, 1902.

been awakened a sense of responsibility never before known in the history of France. One sees its expression in the multitude of organisations having a philanthropic or a moral purpose; in the new tone in art; in polite literature; in the importance which moral and religious questions have come to assume. To this, more than to any other cause, must be ascribed the deepening religious seriousness visible in many parts of the country, and the great prominence of moral questions in the schools.

Thirty-five years ago the Catholic Church had still virtual control of French education.¹ Symbols of Catholic faith were found everywhere in school buildings. The catechism was on a par with arithmetic, and Roman Catholic prayers were recited several times a day, notwithstanding the presence of non-Catholics. So great was the power of the clergy that, in places not a few, the local priest became a real despot for the local teacher. This was an anachronism which could not last. In 1882 the Parliament — after long and stormy discussions — voted the secularisation of the common schools. Instead of the religious practices and the mechanical

¹ During the last days of the Empire the common-school teacher was trained, and compelled, to teach the Roman Catholic catechism, to learn to sing the plain chant, and to take organ lessons in view of the Catholic Church service.

teaching of the catechism, the teaching of morals was introduced, and great efforts were made, in a new way, for the improvement of character. This was not simply the liberation of the schools from ecclesiastical dominion, but also the assertion that under that régime they had failed in their moral education. As expected, the clergy carried on a most violent campaign against the Parliament and pushed forward the extension of a vast system of parochial schools in opposition to the "atheistic" and the "godless" schools of the Republic.¹

Sacrifice on account of principles is always beautiful. To have, by their own gifts, in the face of State-paid institutions, maintained schools which educate one-third of the children of the primary, and nearly one-half of the secondary schools is no small achievement performed by the Catholics. With them moral teaching is almost always confounded with religious instruction, and morality is the un-

¹ Until the war the Catholic Church has continued her antagonism to the common schools, to the moral teaching in them, and to the teachers in such a way as to create bitter feelings on both sides. The bishops condemned Lavisser's *Histoire de France*, an impartial little history written by a great historian who is the soul of impartiality. These same bishops condemned the text-books of morals because there is nothing in them upon the supernatural or about "the doctrine of the original sin." To please them the government should eliminate all the books they disapprove; in other words, the bishops should have the upper hand. This French democracy will not allow.

conditional surrender to the voice of the Church. As some one has said, this moral teaching can have serious and lasting value only for those who have faith and will keep it, but when confidence in the Church ceases the sense of moral imperativeness disappears. Fortunately, to supplement their schools, the Catholics have created many splendidly devised organisations to keep their young people in touch with them as they enter their apprenticeship or go to work. They are thus under a great moral and religious influence through the schools, even after they have left them. A Catholic writer¹ rightly regrets that these efforts have been "a work of preservation, rather than one of formation." This was to be expected. These schools continue the old traditional education of the Church.² Still we must remember that, by a kind of intellectual and moral infiltration, much of the life of the present time penetrates into those institutions in which mediæval ideals are still so greatly cherished.

Nothing served the common schools after 1882 like the bitter attacks of the clergy. At first the people were anxious, but when the nature of the moral teaching was known they

¹ Turmann, Max, *Au sortir de l'école*, p. 73.

² For the difference between the two methods, see Paul Lapie in *La Science française*, vol. I, p. 51.

gradually approved it. The teachers, at the outset frightened by their new duties, hesitated, but when their fitness to teach morals was assailed — not entirely without cause — they showed a noble determination to do what they could. The government founded a special normal school for men at St. Cloud and one for women at Fontenay-aux-roses, to provide suitable teachers of morals for all the normal, and thereby for the common schools of the country. The lack of competent teachers for this work was then, and is still to some extent, one of the difficulties in the way. Specific training in this matter is less important than character. As a whole, the body of French teachers has a high moral standing, because teaching is not for them a temporary makeshift, but a life. Were one to judge of their character by their small number of criminals the result would be most satisfactory, for the liberal professions reach an average of 6.35 per thousand where the teachers have only 1.58. As an evidence of their altruistic spirit, it is sufficient to say that no less than thirty-five thousand have, for several winters, taught without compensation in evening schools.

The teachers showed their superiority by making a right use of the criticisms of their

opponents. They admitted that French common schools were only too often soulless teaching machines; they recognised the necessity of making them living centres of moral power. The pupil must learn no less, but his learning must express itself in terms of moral life. He must, at all cost, be protected from the great evils without, and strengthened in his life within. For the work of external moral preservation there were gradually founded numerous organisations, the *mutualités scolaires*, a kind of mutual-help society; the *amicales*, the grouping of former pupils for social ends; the *patronages*, to look after former pupils during their apprenticeship; the *classes de garde*, to keep until evening the children whose parents are at work during the day; anti-alcoholic leagues, societies for the protection of useful animals; literary entertainments, and other means of keeping former pupils in a wholesome moral atmosphere. In accordance with the doctrine of evolution, they endeavoured to shelter the prolonged infancy of man, when home and Church are inadequate, with the influences of the schools. The great thing, however, was to strengthen the inner child. Without surrendering any effort for the mental development of the pupils — while increasing every provision to secure greater in-

tellectual efficiency — great stress was laid upon their moral development by the very means the results of which so far had been mere intellectuality. Languages, mathematics, literature, history, and other studies, aside from their specific aim, must at the same time yield a certain training of the will. Every exercise of the school must secure results in which, when possible, thought, feeling, volition, and action would be but four inseparable steps to character.¹ The teacher must always keep this great end in mind. He must insist upon merit rather than upon rank. In cases of misdemeanour he must make the pupil his own judge; when possible he must be made to see the relations of the penalty to the fault. He must place around his pupils a healthy, inspiring moral atmosphere. He must become the auxiliary of morality, as formerly he was the auxiliary of religion. It is clear that in thirty-five years a great change has taken place in French education in the direction of moral teaching. This must not be confounded, however, with the teaching of morals.

¹ In examining text-books used in classes of grammar the author found L. Dessaint and C. Jamart's book, *La Langue française*. It is impossible for the philosophically minded reader not to be struck with the moral aim in doing this work. On page 304 the 87 subjects of composition that are given tend in a large way to turn the minds of the pupils toward moral questions.

When this branch of instruction was inaugurated in France, the country had the good fortune to have the programme formulated by competent men in the Ministry of Education — men who thoroughly studied the difficult problem. These, in turn, received the co-operation of some of the best minds of France in the preparation of text-books. Among these writers we read the names of Paul Janet, A. Mézières, Paul Bert, Abbé de Broglie, G. Compayré, Mme. Coignet, Henry Gréville, Henry Marion, Ch. Renouvier, Jules Simon, Jules Steeg — men and women foremost in the literary and the philosophical world. They put into these books, each one in his own way, the fundamental principles of morality. They gave expression to the national conscience in a didactic form. Thus the Parliament decreed that the moral education of 6,000,000 French children should be attempted by 124,000 teachers;¹ specialists formulated an ideal programme; the teachers did much to meet the demands of this new departure, and conspicuous writers admirably stated in their books various ways to reach a common goal.

Morals in the schools are not always taught from books, but sometimes by brief, earnest

¹ Izoulet, Jean, *La cité moderne*, p. 471.

talks, prepared by the teacher from the books. They are imparted to children from five to seven in a mere oral form by the simplest way possible. Here the teaching does not go further than to say that this act is right and that is wrong. The great end is intensive moral culture by emotions. With the other classes the greater number of teachers use books. In the elementary primary class, from seven to nine, instruction is generally by means of narratives, illustrations, and quotations bearing upon the immediate relations of the pupils among themselves. The effort is not so much to enlighten the moral consciousness as to secure the immediate introduction of principles into life. This instruction must be in touch with events in the daily life of the pupils. The programme of Jules Ferry puts it as follows:

The teacher must use concrete examples and appeals to the immediate experience of the children in order to develop in them moral emotions and inspire them with feelings of admiration for the universal order,—with religious feelings by calling their attention to scenery of great natural beauty,—with feelings of charity by pointing out to them sufferings to relieve, giving thereby some real act of charity to accomplish with discretion,—with feelings of gratitude and sympathy by the account of a courageous deed, or by a visit to a charitable institution, etc.¹

¹ *Programmes officiels du 27 juillet, 1882.*

In the middle primary class, from nine to eleven, the programme centres upon duties toward parents, servants, classmates, the fatherland, and God. The method used with the preceding class is continued, but with more order and precision. Here again one is impressed with the same intense purpose of moral utility which we have already noticed. In the superior primary class — that is, from eleven to thirteen — the work includes the study of elementary principles of morality, concluded with a special study of social morality. In the secondary schools great stress is laid upon moral education,¹ but the teaching of morals has also its place. Here the scope might be stated as follows: primary moral notions; domestic, social, and personal duties. All this remains intensely practical and even dogmatic. In the last year of *lycée* and *collège* work ethics constitutes an invaluable part of the course of philosophy.

The text-books used in this work are intended for a certain stage of mental development, that is, for some definite classes. Some are also for candidates to normal schools,² for teachers, for families,³ and for general moral culture.⁴ In

¹ Croiset, Alfred, *L'éducation morale dans l'université*, Paris, 1901.

² Abbé de Broglie, *Dieu, la conscience, le devoir*, Paris, 1889; A. Pierre and A. Martin, *Cours de morale théorique et pratique*, Paris, 1901.

³ Manuel, G., *Nouveau livre de morale pratique*, Paris, 1901.

⁴ Dugard, M., *La culture morale*.

many cases they combine morals and civics, and not infrequently the rudiments of common law. One of the text-books greatly used¹ gives (1) moral precepts; (2) stories illustrating them; (3) a vocabulary of the most difficult words used; (4) questions to see whether the pupil has understood well, or to drive the precepts home; (5) compositions which, in their own way, serve a similar purpose. Another² proceeds in a similar manner, but its contents are so arranged as to be distributed through the months of the school year. October is devoted to the family, November to the school, December and January to the fatherland, and so on to June, which deals with responsibility, habit, sanctions of the moral law, duties toward God, and the immortality of the soul. The various text-books devoted to higher forms of primary teaching of morals are much more substantial. In addition to clear expositions of the subject there are references to well-known passages of literature to illustrate a point. Thus in the chapter on conscience, several refer to Hugo's poem, *La Conscience*.³ Some are rich in brilliant quotations of thoughts and maxims from all literatures,

¹ Laloï, Pierre, *L'année d'instruction morale et civique*, Paris, 1900.

² Bailly and Dodey, *Morale pratique de l'écolier*, Paris, 1896.

³ Lapeyre, F., *Leçons d'instruction morale*, Paris, 1901; Pavette, O., *La morale mise à la portée des enfants*, Paris, 1901.

and others, like the little book of Paul Janet,¹ have clear-cut definitions which greatly facilitate the grasping of moral distinctions. The books for *lycées* and *collèges* are remarkable in this respect.² One of the best books in this collection gives,³ after each chapter, a *résumé* in brief, related propositions which make the book luminous. Another⁴ has many tabular views exhibiting, side by side, the rights as well as the duties of the child, and three synoptical views of those duties, so arranged as to be easily remembered in their interrelations. Still another⁵ closes each chapter with resolutions. The manuals devoted to ethics have a more speculative character, but the books just referred to are devoted to morality as an art and not as a science. It is not to be understood that these books are all equally satisfactory; some are childish, superficial, or are badly printed and illustrated; others, very few indeed, are anti-religious, but, as a whole, they represent a fine body of pedagogic literature. The impression left by the series is their concrete character, their variety, their simplicity, and the moral earnestness of the writers.

¹ *Petits éléments de morale*, Paris, 1884.

² Pontsevrez, *Cours de morale pratique*, Paris, 1896; Adam, Ch., *Cours de morale pratique*, Paris, 1893.

³ Gérard, J., *Morale*, Delagrave, Paris.

⁴ Curé and Houzelle, *Leçons de morale*, Paris, 1900.

⁵ Pavette, O., *op. cit.*

It is impossible that such books, from so many sources and such varied inspiration, should have that unity of moral conception which would satisfy those who place all ethical considerations above that of individual or social utility. The great diversity, however, is more often one of verbal expression than of real practical difference. Not infrequently the strong political or religious bias of a writer gives a slightly one-sided colouring to his statements. Some are greatly concerned about certain national tendencies. One, alarmed by the internationalism of Socialists, lays great emphasis upon the duties of patriotism; another has at heart the overthrow of traditional superstitions. One is impressed with the urgent necessity of opposing alcoholism with new vigour; and another, having seen the evil of religious bigotry, insists upon the duty of toleration. Almost all have laid special stress upon particular points, and only a few have neglected important ones. The remarkable fact is the quasi-unanimity as to what acts are moral and what are not. While the morals taught are often placed upon empirical grounds, and should be, the programme demands that the teachers should assert in the classroom "the imperative and disinterested character of duty."¹ This provision — if we are to judge from the text-

¹ *Programmes officiels du 27 juillet, 1882.*

books — is not always carried out, but when the imperativeness of this or that particular act is concerned, there is absolute unanimity. It cannot be doubted that these text-books have a clearer ring of the categorical imperative than those taught in the parochial schools. In January (1901), Deputy Trouillot, in the French Parliament, called attention to cases of scandalous casuistry in a Latin manual used in sixty-seven Catholic seminaries of France. A Roman Catholic priest, member of the Parliament, Abbé Gayraud, dared to defend publicly mental reservations and the subterfuges of casuistry. He made the statement that falsehoods are allowable, provided they hurt no one. In the text-books of secular education which the writer has seen there is a positiveness in reference to right and wrong acts — no middle ground — which is a contrast to the equivocations in the work assailed by Deputy Trouillot. As a whole, were the ideals of moral life imparted by these text-books compared with those set forth by the Founder of Christianity, one could not escape the conclusion that they are very much alike, not to say identical.¹

¹ Jules Ferry was in favour of having taught in the schools "Our Duties toward God," and as a matter of fact that subject was taught; but he was unwilling to have this inserted into the law of 1882, lest the bishops should take advantage of it for the purpose of interfering with the schools. (Lanesson, J.-L. de, *Le Siècle*, 1909.)

This brings us to the religious aspect of this teaching of morals. Indeed, "religious instruction" so-called is forbidden by law, but obviously the French legislators gave to the word "religious" a peculiar sense. By it, they certainly meant to do away with clerical interference, with the teaching of a truncated religious history, with a denominational catechism, the Roman Catholic prayers, and other religious features associated with Catholicism. Some of the legislators wished, even, to eliminate the word "God" from all text-books, but they failed. That the measure was not anti-religious is evident from the fact that the law distinctly states that the schools shall be closed Sundays and Thursdays so that the children may, if their parents wish, receive religious instruction in the churches.¹ Another proof is the official doctrine of the State, which reads as follows:

The teacher is not to give a course of instruction *ex professo* upon the nature and attributes of God. His lessons for all must be confined to two points: First, he teaches his pupils not to pronounce lightly the name of God; he associates closely in their mind the idea of a First Cause and a Perfect Being with feelings of respect and

¹ All the children of the parochial schools and a large part of those from the common schools attend the Catholic Sunday and Thursday schools, where, at least for a part of the year, they study the catechism. The Protestants have about seventy thousand children in their Sunday and Thursday schools.

reverence; he accustoms each of them to give to this notion of God the same respect, even though that should be different from the teacher's own convictions. Secondly, and independently from the special instructions of different denominations, the teacher will endeavour to have the child understand and feel that the first homage which he owes to God is obedience to his laws, such as they are revealed to him by his conscience and his reason.¹

After this one is not astonished to hear Professor Buisson, of the University of Paris, when taking up the gauntlet about the "godless schools," exclaim: "Our schools are schools without priests, but not schools without God." Certainly they are not without God, though the theistic position is not so absolute as it would seem. In twenty text-books of morals, chosen at random, sixteen teach the existence of God and duties toward Him. The four remaining ones might be viewed by some as a concession to radicalism, though more properly they should be considered as honourable attempts to place the teaching of morals upon a basis absolutely independent of religion, without any hostility toward it. One cannot say as much of the Christological attitude of all these writers. Admitting that in such matters one is justified in

¹ Comte G. d'Avenel, a distinguished Catholic, speaking of moral teachings in the schools, says: "There is no public school where is taught as to 'good' and 'evil' anything else than what is found in the catechism." (*Les Français de mon temps*, p. 212.)

taking a purely human view of the Christ, it seems absolutely unscientific for those who speak historically of morals to avoid all references to him. The men who quote profusely Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, La Fontaine, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Rabelais refrain even from the least allusion to Jesus, whom such radical thinkers as John Stuart Mill and Renan proclaimed the greatest moral teacher of all times. Most of them,¹ however, strengthen their moral teaching with the theistic idea, and several text-books approve external worship and speak of prayer.

This teaching derives additional importance from the fact that, in another way, it is also given in the classes of philosophy. The changes in this realm have been numerous, the old *spiritualisme*, which was taught often by materialists, has been replaced by neo-Kantism taught by idealists. The statement in the official programme has been but slightly modified, but it is taught in a new spirit. Duty, moral freedom, God, and immortality have remained central in the philosophical teaching of the secondary schools, and whatever the churches may wish to add to these cardinal facts, they are the corner-stones of religion. Are not the following ques-

¹ These statements refer only to the twenty text-books examined by the writer.

tions, which were given for admission to the Superior Normal School of Sèvres, religious? "State the principal reasons which warrant us in hoping for another life." "Is God revealed to our reason, or apprehended by our feelings?" "Religious duties." "Providence." "The Existence of God." "Relations of godliness to virtue." To teach the existence of a God who finds pleasure in seeing men obey the moral law, to cultivate respect and reverence for that God, is certainly religious in the largest sense of the term.¹ Of course there are teachers who eschew this part of the work — and many of them; others do it poorly, but the majority do it. Almost all the teachers think that a mere intellectual training, without the moral, is inadequate, and many hold that a moral education without a theistic foundation, or other religious concomitant, is weak and frail.

This tendency has been so pronounced that already a reaction is in sight. Among other signs of it are the recent meeting of a teachers'

¹ When some time ago the writer read some extracts from French text-books of morals in Carnegie Hall in New York, several journalists stated that the citizens of the Empire State would not tolerate so much religious teaching in the public schools. Professor Barrett Wendell, after visiting the *lycée* of Lille, where he saw clergymen teaching religion, said: "Even under this extremely anti-clerical government, it proved there was a degree of dogmatic teaching at the expense of the State, which would not be tolerated by the public opinion of any city in America." (*The France of To-day*, p. 39.)

association in Bordeaux and one of the *Ligue pour l'enseignement* in Caen, when resolutions were passed urging that that part of moral instruction referring to God be dropped. There can be no better proof of the religious value of this education than the opposition of radicalism. A Catholic writer, not friendly toward these schools, referring to the place of God in this education, calls it "the share of the Divine."¹ Another writer ascribes to this teaching that ideal justice which is the soul of religion.² M. Paul Sabatier says: "Thanks to the teaching of morals, there is being constituted, little by little, among us a kind of lay church. It is a reformation, true, deep, noiseless, outside of the churches but not against them."

It is difficult to gauge the results of a work like this. After centuries of experience, there are still those who question the moral influence of the Church, of science, and of art. There are those who view this experiment as a failure because they had expected sudden moral transformations, which are impossible. The Catholic clergy condemned the system before it had been tried in one single school. The Duc de Broglie attacked it³ most violently, insisting

¹ *Revue des Deux Mondes*, 15 juin, 1898.

² Jacob, B., *Pour l'école laïque*, p. 33.

³ *Histoire et politique*, 1897, p. 435.

that the "godless schools" were already showing their baneful fruition in the alarming increase in the number of youthful criminals.

When it is said that the morals taught in the schools are powerless because they lack theoretical unity and Church help, the answer might be that it is impossible to do more poorly than they with all their adjuncts. The writer does not underrate the advantages of teaching morals with the support of a historic religion, but that can no longer be done in France. Again, it seems to him that a system of morals resting upon the theistic idea is more efficient than the one which makes the theistic idea stand upon the categorical imperative, but even this view of morals can no longer be pressed in a country in which the philosophers stand by the *Critique of the Practical Reason* of Kant. They insist that morality does not depend upon the idea of God, but that the idea of God rests upon the sense of oughtness in us. This point of view cannot be taken by all, for many teach a utilitarian morality. Obviously, it is impossible to secure theoretical unity, but a practical one is possible. Again, the teachers do not all show the same spirit and zeal, but, as a whole, the essential parts of the programmes are fairly carried out.

After making allowances for necessary imperfections, some practical results must follow. The teachers dispel an enormous amount of moral ignorance, a result of no mean importance. They assert the merits and demerits of certain acts which, in the mind of the pupils, become forces of moral suggestion. With this comes either the quickening of sympathy for moral, or of aversion for unmoral and immoral, acts. This is embodied in life by the continued effort to transform all this thinking and feeling into moral energy. There is, above all, the constant inspiration of higher ideals. Higher moral ideas and ideals must necessarily act as determinants of feelings and volitions for a higher life.

It should be remembered that this teaching is correlated with a general *ensemble* of efforts and life described at the outset of this chapter; an *ensemble* which intensifies the power of this teaching of morals. The writer has not the least hesitancy in admitting that the practical results have not come up to the original theoretical expectations, but this is also the case with the parochial schools. Honest teachers on both sides have not failed to express their disappointment at the results of their work. However, numerous investigations have shown tangible results.

In 1889 Dean Lichtenberger, of the Faculty of Protestant Theology of Paris, examined 558 reports from as many inspectors of schools from every part of the country. The variety of the reports and the discriminating sincerity of the inspectors, so severe toward their own work, lead one to see how Dean Lichtenberger could reach no other conclusion than that the work represented "a manifest progress." Numerous correspondents have spoken in a similar manner. One of them, inspector over two hundred schools, writes: "The teaching of morals gives results more and more satisfactory. It is not perfect as yet, but progress has been made which is an encouragement to persevere." Another, speaking of the fruits of this education, says: "I know men who have had no other training than that of the common schools, and yet men who, by their intelligence and their moral elevation, are certainly among the greatest personal forces of modern France." A distinguished writer says: "We have already some admirable results. I need not tell you that they are extremely variable. . . . The reaction upon the teachers themselves has been superb. They have, at least many among them, realised the part which they must play as educators."

The full value of this new departure in French

schools cannot as yet be gauged by corresponding results. It is probable that its wisdom will not be absolutely demonstrated by adequate returns until the time when the pupils, trained in the schools, have homes of their own, and in the education of their children co-operate with the schools — until the time when the Church, ceasing her opposition, and supplementing the work of the schools, gives them an honest support. Meanwhile, with their manifest imperfections, the schools have become institutions, not only to make the pupils think, but think right, then feel right, then will right, then do right, and finally be right, the permanence of which is character. The number of those who will go through all the stages of this ethical ascent may not be great at first, but multitudes will doubtless be lifted up, morally, a little higher. Later on, this great moral lever, working with cumulative force, will direct the energies which make for the better life of France.

CHAPTER XII

THE DISPERSION OF THE UNAUTHORISED RELIGIOUS ORDERS

WE have endeavoured to show that the Catholic Church of France has never had more earnestness in its priesthood, more culture and humanitarianism in its life, than now.¹ This can scarcely be said, however, of the regular clergy, *i. e.*, the members of monastic organisations whose action has constantly generated national storms. In 1900 there were, in France, 1,663 orders, of which 152 were for men and 1,511 for women. The total membership was 190,000,² an increase of 130,000 since the time preceding the French Revolution, when already they were considered a national burden.³ An examination of the Concordat and of the Organic Articles leaves no doubt that the orders were altogether excluded.⁴

¹ See Chap. IX.

² Waldeck-Rousseau, *Associations et congrégations*, p. iii.

³ See Taine, H., *Les origines de la France contemporaine*, vol. I, p. 17 *et seq.*

⁴ Debidour, A., *Histoire des rapports de l'Eglise et de l'Etat de 1789 à 1870*, p. 220. Père Du Lac admits that neither Napoleon nor Pius VII referred to the orders, and that to have allowed them to return would

They first managed, however, by personal patronage to secure authorisation for humble philanthropic work, and later on they slowly penetrated into the country which, as a whole, feared them. Their gradual return shows that it was not a part of the Concordat, whose provisions were enforced at once. As we have already said, were the growth of the regular clergy to be taken as an index of religious progress one could not deny that the Republic has been more favourable to religion than preceding governments.¹

All orders have ascetic rules of greater or less rigidity, but most of them make an absolute surrender of self to their superior. In a discourse delivered in Paris, in 1868, upon "Monks and their Social Function," Père Didon waxes eloquent as he speaks of what the monastic gives up. He says: "You protest, perhaps. I shudder, myself. Well, yes. Personality itself shall be taken from me, like the rest, with my liberty; and after having repudiated all my belongings, having renounced chaste love, the vow of obedience which I take shall leave me

have aroused the Republicans to revolt. There can be no better proofs than those stated by the celebrated Jesuit that the orders were not included in the Concordat. (See Père Du Lac, *Jésuites*, p. 138 *et seq.*)

¹ Père Du Lac admits that the Jesuits were able to establish 13 *collèges* during the Second Republic, and 10 under the present one, while under the Empire they founded only 3. (*Op. cit.*, p. 210.)

only slavery. The monk is a slave, indeed, and it is his last name. I mistake, there is one more beautiful: the monk is less than a slave . . . he is a cadaver, *perinde ac cadaver*.”¹ By the side of this renunciation of the monk there is the omnipotence of his superior. One trembles at the thought of an imperfect use of such power. In 1872 Père Didon, without any warning or hearing, was ordered from Paris, where he was most popular, to Havre as a punishment.² In 1880, at the height of his popularity, he was summoned to Rome by his superior; and there and then, without any explanation, or chance to defend himself, he — one of the ablest orators of Europe — was sent in disgrace to a poor convent of Corsica.³ When his mother died calling for him, and calling to the end, he was refused permission to go to her. At last the superior yielded, but it was too late; for the great orator reached the old home three days after her death.⁴

As a rule orders are very zealous. One superb form of their service is that for the poor, the sick, the infirm, and the incurable. The “Little Sisters of the Poor” and others engaged in this ministry enjoy great popular respect and

¹ Père Raynaud, *Le Père Didon*, p. 56.

² *Ibid.*, p. 109.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 204; *Lettres du Père Didon à un ami*, p. 28.

⁴ Didon, *Lettres*, p. 43.

love. In a general way the heroic note is dominant in their lives. Their missions, in zeal, in consecration, in the variety of efforts, in the number of their martyrs, are nothing short of remarkable. Their missionaries have rendered signal services to French expansion,¹ but the government has more than liberally compensated them, and in some cases — in China, for instance — has sustained them in most unfair claims.² For generations they have given it protection in all lands, not to speak of subsidies. The public, however, has come to recognise that the protectorate of Catholic missions is not infrequently detrimental to the good name of the country. When this is brought to the attention of missionaries they answer that they are in the foreign field to advance, not the interest of France, but that of religion. That is true, but, such being the case, they should not ask funds for a work which they do not do.

Many of the orders lay stress upon the work of education. Giving up that of charities, and in a measure that of missions, they have recognised that schools were the best avenues to the recovery of their former power. They opened

¹ Waldeck-Rousseau, *ibid.*, p. 300 ; Bonet-Maury, G., *Christianisme et civilisation*, pp. 1-86.

² Guyot, Y., *Le bilan social et politique de l'Eglise*, p. 307; Laneson, J.-L. de, *Les missions et leur protectorat*, pp. 23, 29, and 33.

schools of all kinds which, owing to their religious, social, and political influences, had success, — success of numbers, and success in securing diplomas which are granted on examination by the government. Many of these institutions, however, have been hothouses for candidates for diplomas. They were carried on by the unauthorised orders, which, wherever they have established themselves, have done their utmost to wreck the common schools. They have always caused Free-thinkers, Jews, and Protestants to appear as if they were traitors to the country, and guilty of heinous forms of evil. If the celebrated Dominican preacher, Père Monsabré, eulogised the Inquisition at Notre Dame of Paris,¹ in the schools they virtually approved the Massacre of Saint Bartholomew's Day, the Inquisition, and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.² In one of their text-books Protestants, and not Catholics, were represented as the cause of this revocation. The French Revolution is never placed before their pupils except upon its most horrible side. There has always been an element of unfairness in dealing historically with those who opposed them, or in their competition with the State. They stealth-

¹ Loyson, H., *Ni cléricaux, ni athées*, p. 140.

² Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 110.

ily but surely laid their hands upon the teaching in forty-nine of the theological seminaries of the country.¹ Thus, tolerated at first because of charitable work, they seized upon the education of laymen and finally upon that of the national clergy. This was a double violation of the Concordat, which contemplated no monastics, Gallican professors, Gallican pupils, Gallican doctrine.

They gradually extended their efforts in another direction. They consecrated a large part of their energy to revivalism; they held missions in the State churches, and succeeded in many instances in putting the secular, *i. e.*, the parish, priest in the background. These men in open revolt against the laws of the country took possession of national pulpits and, besides, opened chapels competing with the churches, often winning the aristocratic and the rich.² In Paris, by the side of seventy parish churches, they had five hundred and eleven chapels and churches;³ but few of these men were ready to go to help the poor, overburdened parish priests in desolate mountainous districts. When it comes to pure disinterested motives, the people at large have more confidence in the quiet and humble manner

¹ Trouillot, *Pour l'idée laïque*, p. 38.

² Narfon, *op. cit.*, p. 166; Waldeck-Rousseau, *op. cit.*, pp. 322 and 323.

³ Trouillot, *op. cit.*, p. 35.

of the parish priest than in the more spectacular acts of the monks.¹

The enterprises of the orders are quite various, and some of them are far from religious. There are those which have rendered themselves conspicuous as distillers and merchants. Their well-known liquors — *bénédictine*, *chartreuse*,² *rédemptorine*, and *trappistine* — do not suggest spiritual attainments. The Carthusians alone paid \$400,000 a year as excise taxes. They have many pious goods, and some which are not pious, to which they affix religious names — patent-medicines, for instance. Some have not hesitated to make promises for these drugs which outshine all the claims of our secular patent-medicine venders. Among all the orders there was an evident attempt almost everywhere to acquire property by all means. They have left the impression of unusual skill, not to say unscrupulousness, in avoiding the payment of taxes. There were also circulated papers containing hints and methods to will property to monks and nuns in spite of the law.³ By the

¹ A poor priest, going on duty in a third-class car, is reported to have said to a monk starting with a first-class ticket for a rich watering-place: "It is you that have made the vow of poverty, but it is I that practise it." (Narfon, *op. cit.*, p. 349.)

² In 1901 the amount of *chartreuse* made is said to have been 400,000 gallons. (Baedeker, *Sud-Est de la France*, p. 168.)

³ Brisson, *Discours*.

side of their most beautiful work one witnesses the most shocking acts. Thus, those who have seen the labours of the Assumptionists in St. Pierre and Miquelon, among deep-sea fishermen, could never withhold admiration for their unlimited devotion to one of the most pitiable classes of Frenchmen, while not countenancing for an instant the narrowness and fanaticism of the Assumptionists of France.¹ Their paper, *La Croix*, commenting upon three days of most disgraceful riots against the Jews in the capital of Algeria, said: "The Christ, indeed, reigned in Algiers during three days." Père Bailly, their superior, after the second condemnation of Dreyfus at Rennes, wrote in the same paper that this second verdict must be ascribed to the miraculous intervention of the Virgin.²

As a rule the orders have not that philosophical and scientific culture which confers upon self-surrender the highest value for social and religious beneficence. The attempt of Père Du Lac to show that the Jesuits have been, and are still, friendly to science leads one to question whether that gentleman, as well as his fellow monks, has an adequate sense of what that word has come to mean in the modern world.³

¹ Narfon, *op. cit.*, p. 292.

² Guyot, *Le bilan*, etc., p. 165.

³ *Jésuites*, p. 260.

Neither do they conceal their unfriendliness to independent research, to free science, and to all the great sources of modern enlightenment, though they have among them erudite men, eminent scholars, and scientists of some repute. They cultivate mathematics and astronomy, safe sciences from their point of view; but they have no sympathy with the larger scientific ideal to understand all things and to probe all things.

The statement of Père Du Lac, that the rules of his order forbid its members political interference,¹ will convince no one. The monks have exercised such political action that Père Maumus, of Paris, endeavoured to bring them back to their true ministry when he said: "Our mission is not to cause deputies to be elected; we have to save souls and to spread the kingdom of Jesus Christ." No one acquainted with human nature could have expected to hear the praises of the Republic from their lips. Disparagement of the government was the most pronounced tendency of their life. It showed itself wherever we could see them, hear them, or read their utterances. Everything was out of joint in the French democracy, and, to please them, they should have been allowed to set it

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 212,

right. They toil, they say, for a society founded not on the will of man, but of God, that is in reality upon the will of the Pope, though at times they do not hesitate to disobey him.¹ Those men who claim to be Catholics, whose mission is to make the brotherhood of man a reality, are the narrowest of nationalists, and the most militant chauvinists. They are the mystic defenders of war and the greatest advocates of militarism. They were almost a unit against Dreyfus, and were largely responsible for the crusade of injustice against this unfortunate man.

The part which they played in that lamentable agitation revived the hatred for monastics, which had been more or less slumbering in the hearts of Anti-Clericals; and it gave to the people a new sense of national danger. In fact, monasticism and republicanism were bound to clash. The peaceful coexistence of two such powers in a democracy is a practical impossibility. In French eyes, monasticism is something sinister, hidden behind high walls, and waiting for the opportunity to crush anything that is liberal. At best it appears as the trust of religion controlled by the Roman pontiff. Monastic ideals and methods are the negation

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 293.

of equal opportunity. The growing ascendancy of the orders was viewed by almost all the respectable liberal political leaders — and they knew what they were about — as an imminent danger to freedom. A Catholic acquaintance of Professor Barrett Wendell said that “he had acquiesced with regret in the suppression of the teaching orders, for the reason that he could see no other means of saving France from the condition of Spain.”¹ Some of the most devout Catholics, even priests, shared this view. It was well remembered by the thoughtful, and proclaimed everywhere by politicians, that monasticism was the great rock in the way of corporate freedom. From the Franco-Prussian war to our own time, thirty-two bills had been presented to the French Parliament, and defeated by the occult action of the orders. They did not wish to see non-Catholics enjoy the freedom which they themselves had.

One fact which, more than any other, aroused public opinion against the unauthorised orders, was their disregard of law. Their presence in the country was illegal, their property was illegal; and, no matter how good they were in other respects, law-breakers could not be good elements of national life. This practice had

¹ *The France of To-day*, p. 39.

been constant, even under the most Catholic governments, since the Concordat. The Jesuits never asked authorisation from any régime.¹ The pious Charles X compelled them to close their seven *collèges*. The king's order so to do was signed, not by a Free-thinker, but by the eloquent Bishop de Frayssinous.² In 1831 the Trappists were expelled by soldiers from their monastery of Melleray.³ In 1844 the Chamber of Deputies voted the expulsion of the Jesuits; but not one of them left France, even after the Holy See had advised the dissolution of the French Jesuitical communities.⁴

The orders would take advantage of the embarrassments of the government to penetrate everywhere into the country. It never was a "square deal." Napoleon III closed the Jesuit *collège* of Montaud in 1853, he opposed the opening of such institutions at Brest, and at Le Mans in 1860, and shut the doors of the institutions of Capuchins of Hazbrouck, of the Redemptorists of Douai, Arras, and Boulogne in 1861.⁵ During the same year, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul preferred to disappear rather than to allow its organisation to be under

¹ Waldeck-Rousseau, *ibid.*, p. 354.

² Rambaud, *Histoire de la civilisation française contemporaine*, p. 354.

³ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 211.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 224.

⁵ Rambaud, *ibid.*, p. 553.

government control.¹ Under Jules Ferry decrees were issued demanding the immediate dispersion of the Jesuits, and the government approval of the unauthorised orders or their dispersion. These lent a deaf ear to government injunctions. There were no valid reasons for refusing to comply with the government's behest, except that they considered themselves above the laws of the country. Driven by force from their convents, the monks would return quietly. The thirty-nine orders, which were dispersed in and about Paris, had reassembled by 1888.² They not only disregarded all civil authority, but were demoralising the authorised orders. From 1877 to 1900 the number of illegal nuns rose from 14,000 to 75,000, and the authorised decreased from 113,750 to 54,409.³

Popular anti-monasticism was intensified by the illegal co-operation of the most unpopular — in fact of almost all — bishops with the orders. They had been one in persecuting the most distinguished members of the university, Guizot, Cousin, Michelet, Quinet, Challemel-Lacour, Jules Simon, Taine, Sarcey, Deschanel, and others; one in violating the Concordat which was a Gallican agreement; one in making

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, 241.

² Waldeck-Rousseau, *ibid.*, p. 45.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 104.

abusive demands upon Napoleon III, and treating him shamefully when he did not do enough for the Vatican;¹ one in urging France to wage war upon Italy for the restoration of the temporal power; one in having MacMahon's men persecute non-Catholics; one in the Dreyfus crisis, during which they did not conceal their blind prejudice; one in their hostility to freedom of association. All this was only too well remembered, recited for the thousandth time by Anti-Clericals, who seemed to have been seized with *monasticophobia*. The most grotesque slander against a Jesuit or a Dominican was never too irrational for their belief. Some of them who had lost all faith still accepted the miracle of monastic perversity. The services rendered by the monks were forgotten, and all of them were swallowed up in one broad, sweeping condemnation. Their most violent critics were often their own former pupils.² It was a member of their Church who said: "Certain orders excel in making obtuse and inert Catholics, and active and intelligent Freemasons."³ Waldeck-Rousseau, when Prime Minister, was impelled by the force of

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 231.

² Chaine, L., *Les Catholiques français et leurs difficultés actuelles*, 1904, p. 195; Abbé Gayraud, *La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 234.

³ Chaine, *Menus propos*, p. 57.

public opinion to refer the monastic question to Parliament.

M. Georges Trouillot, a former Minister of the Colonies, and subsequently member of several cabinets, was made chairman of the parliamentary commission which investigated the whole matter. His report, filled with facts of all kinds upon the orders, presented a trustworthy and solid basis for action. The discourses of MM. Brisson, Bourgeois, and the Prime Minister added important data. Hitherto the public had listened to much prejudiced gossip, vague rumours had been circulated, but now unquestionable evidence was at hand. It was shown that 5,613 monastic establishments paid patents on account of their industrial and commercial pursuits,¹ 449 were devoted to ready-made clothing, 5 sold wine at wholesale, 6 liquor at wholesale, 4 at retail, 2 pure alcohol, 7 were makers of cordials, etc. In twenty years their property had risen from \$120,000,000 to over \$200,000,000.²

It was further demonstrated that they had been remarkably skilful in handling money, and in avoiding the payment of lawful taxes. M. Brisson read a judicial decision showing that a convent of Benedictines had declared to the

¹ Trouillot, *op. cit.*, p. 97.

² Waldeck-Rousseau, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

revenue receiver that some buildings were worth \$1,000, while they were actually insured for \$110,200.¹ The same gentleman stated that one convent had so framed its rules that after her expulsion, a nun, who had brought in \$400,000, did not receive one farthing back.² He exposed the cruel treatment of girls at the institution of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Nancy, where poorly fed young women were subjected to painful labour; and this on the authority of a document written, not by Anti-Clericals, but by Bishop Turinaz of that city and endorsed by five archbishops and fifteen bishops.³

It was also shown at length that the orders had made a constant use of dummies, of fictitious societies, of sham mortgages, of pseudo-leases of estates to conceal the ownership of important property.⁴ In a matter-of-fact way, the chairman of the commission focussed the rays of his impeachment upon the orders as enemies of liberty. Some of the noblest sons of the Church could scarcely believe their ears when he

¹ Chamber of Deputies, Jan. 22, 1901.

² *Ibid.*

³ "After five, ten, fifteen, twenty, and even thirty years of that labour which enriches the nuns to such a point that they were able to spend in a few years more than \$100,000 for buildings, a part of which were not really needed, these young girls, when they leave, receive neither money nor clothing — since I have complained, they receive insignificant sums without relation to their work." (Statement of Bishop Turinaz quoted by M. Brisson, Jan. 22, 1901.)

⁴ Trouillot, *op. cit.*, pp. 140, 155; Brisson, *ibid.*

read in Parliament from the *Theologia dogmatica et moralis*, taught in sixty-seven theological seminaries, the following words: "The Church has received from God the power to force or repress those who wander from the truth, not only by spiritual penalties, but also by temporal ones. . . . These are prison, flagellation, torture, mutilation, death."¹

Not to speak of the general problem of the unauthorised orders, could the French people allow such teaching in the seminaries and in the pulpits of the National Church? The Anti-Clericals, even the most moderate, were now of one mind. Their feelings were intensified when M. de Mun, with his usual eloquence and courage, opposed the Waldeck-Rousseau Bill, by virtue of "the sovereign right of the Church to reign over the State." He thinks that monks are the best representatives of the Church. Some of his friends pleaded in behalf of the unauthorised orders, because of their humanitarian service. A few claimed that the law, if passed, would be disastrous for French finances. We know what to think of that now. There were those who praised the Little Sisters of the Poor, whom every one admires, and the Sisters of St.

¹ *Pour l'idée laïque*, p. 52. The last edition of the work from which the words were quoted was of 1899.

Vincent de Paul, who are close to the heart of the masses, when the question at issue was the illegal status of the Jesuits, the Carthusians, the Assumptionists, and others. As a whole the Clericals made a poor defence of the unauthorised orders; they were prevented by their own precedents. The Republicans were doing what the Catholic governments had done all along, and were more liberal with the monks than Guizot, Villemain, the Duc de Broglie, and Thiers had been.¹

In this great parliamentary contention, so vital for Latin countries and so interesting for all, the point at issue was not religion. There is not one line in the discourses of M. Trouillot, or in those of the Prime Minister, which does not reflect the greatest respect for genuine religion. There is, however, a continuous jet of generous contempt for those who seemed to plead for religion, when, after all, they were striving for something else. Waldeck-Rousseau applied to them the indignant words of Victor Hugo: "I do not confound you, Clerical party, with the Church, any more than I confound the mistletoe with the oak; you are the parasites of the Church and her disease. Cease, then, to mix the Church with your affairs, your cam-

¹ Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 110.

paigns, your doctrines, and your ambitions. Do not call her your mother to make her your servant.”¹

The increase of mortmain property is discussed, but not made central, in the debates. All along there stand out the numerous attempts of the orders to lay their hands upon the vital forces of the nation, and to place restraints upon modern freedom. It was clearly shown that the monastic conflict was a *Kulturkampf* for the triumph or defeat of modern civilisation, that all the most independent Catholic French kings had waged similar battles,² and that all Catholic States — Italy, Bavaria, and even Spain — had been forced to vote restrictive measures for monastic bodies. Some of their ablest defenders — M. Ribot, for instance — were quite opposed to monastic freedom. The bill became law.

This law was one of the most remarkable landmarks of progressive French legislation. It granted a new liberty to all French citizens, and enabled them to band themselves together, or to form organisations for almost all possible purposes. The great movement of socialisation, which had given rise to a multitude of associations, had anticipated legislation. The legion of societies, representing an amazing progress

¹ *Associations et congrégations*, p. 327.

² Waldeck-Rousseau, *ibid.*, pp. 89 and 218.

in every direction, had been formed under a régime of toleration. Now the scientists, the artists, the merchants, the Free-thinkers, and the Protestants had a legal warrant for their corporate existence. Great organisations could now be formed which might, at times, counter-balance the great Catholic machinery. This is what the orders dreaded and the law sanctioned. It recognised absolute freedom to religious and secular associations, except, first, in the case of mixed organisations of French citizens and foreigners; second, in cases where the headquarters were in foreign countries, and, third, in the case of organisations whose members live in common. Even with this last class, the authorised orders were not to be disturbed in their chartered rights, though henceforth they will be kept close to them. They must confine themselves to the work for which they were approved. With them, as with the authorised monks, their religion remains untouched: they may continue to be priests, they may preach if they wish, they may teach if they have adequate diplomas, they may do religiously whatever they like, except to be members of an unauthorised order. The government did not expel, but it dispersed these societies illegally constituted. Again it was not a question of religion, but of political prepon-

derance and supremacy. The issue, indeed, was not religion, but "Who shall rule?" Ultramontane Catholicism or Republican France? Rome or Paris? The point upon which all liberals must be agreed is that by this law France made one of the greatest conquests in the history of her legislation.

When one views an order as a regular society, the Association Law seems illiberal and unfair. A closer attention to the nature of an ordinary organisation and to that of a monastic institution reveals how dissimilar they are, and consequently how differently they should be treated. One is for the benefit of each individual composing it, the other practically destroys the individual. He ceases to exist as such, and thereby loses all affinities for fruitful associations profitable to all. If a member of a society becomes dissatisfied, he may withdraw and take his share of capital and profits. In an order he is retained by all possible means; and if he retires, the sums he brought in are not returned. In an ordinary society, capital is accumulated with the thought of future distribution to its members; in a monastic institution there is mortmain property which goes on accumulating more and more until it may, and in many cases it has, become a social danger. A member of a

society remains a member of his family; in an order there is a complete severance of all family ties. The member of an ordinary organisation is a free, vital part of society, contributing to its reproduction; the member of an order, by his vows, is cut off from such functions. The 200,000 members of the orders — good men and good women — were a stupendous force of elimination of the fittest and best elements of the population. The member of an ordinary society is a free citizen; but that of an order violates the most fundamental moral and political law, that no human being has a right to make an absolute surrender of himself or of his liberty to one being, his monastic superior or any one else. In an ordinary society the member accepts the laws of the State; a member of an order is under the absolute sway of his superior, often a foreigner, and in any case he must be an obedient subject of a foreigner—the Pope. Ordinary societies co-ordinate themselves easily with the life and the laws of the State, while the orders develop a kind of State within the State. To allow the development of these unauthorised orders, for the present at least, would have been suicidal. At all events they were contrary to the stipulations of the Concordat and of the Organic Articles still in force.

Waldeck-Rousseau did not belong to the school of academic liberty which remains in the realm of abstractions; he had a clear sense of political necessities, but he endeavoured to be fair. In the settlement of the illegally acquired property of the unauthorised orders, he did not exaggerate when he said that he had chosen "the best, the justest, and the most humane method."¹ He might have acted upon the narrow, though strictly judicial principle, that all property which has no legal owner belongs to the State.² In so doing he would have followed the example of one of the popes,³ who confiscated all the belongings of the Jesuits. He might also have followed Louis XIV, who seized all property acquired contrary to his edicts.⁴ He chose a different course. The law allows the members of the dispersed orders to recover the property brought by them into the congregation to which they belonged. It permits donors and their heirs to claim gifts made to the monastic institutions. It decides that some of this property shall be used for the relief of the needy members,⁵ and requires that the

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 270.

² *Ibid.*, p. 273.

³ Trouillot, *op. cit.*, p. 57.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 19.

⁵ A decree signed by M. Briand provides a home for the aged dispersed monks, in their own buildings if these have not been sold, or in some other place. (*Le Siècle*, July 12, 1909.)

charities intended for the poor, the invalid, and the incurable shall be continued to them in legal institutions, preferably in those of the Church or in those of the State.¹ Not one penny of this property was confiscated on behalf of the Treasury.

Militant Catholics in France — they represent only a noisy minority — have always been the worst enemies of the Church. By their intolerance they have made the celebrity of their antagonists. Some men have secured renown by the halo of hatred which these Clericals have put round their heads. They did much for Renan and for Littré. Lately, in Paris, they brought into prominence a young professor of the name of Thalamas who was pursued by them for statements about Joan of Arc, which he never uttered. They so abused Waldeck-Rousseau that he withdrew from his leadership and was replaced by M. Combes. Brought up in the Church, later on a cleric, and subsequently a professor of theology, the new leader had left the Church of his birth, and then became its violent antagonist. He had the Anti-Clericalism of Waldeck-Rousseau, but not his sense of measure and of fairness. Seeing the state of public opinion, he sided with the ultra-

¹ *Loi relative au contrat d'association, titre III, art. 18.*

radicals, the Socialists, and led the Parliament to pass a law preventing the orders from teaching — a law to be enforced gradually in the course of the next ten years. Certainly there was much to say, and much to do, when the question came up of not allowing the illegal orders, in revolt against the laws of the land, to educate the children; but that was not the case with the authorised orders, which, equally with the unauthorised, M. Combes's legislation prohibited from teaching. Furthermore, he proceeded to enforce the Law of Association in a spirit different from that in which it was voted. The matter of property had been largely attended to by the monks and the nuns themselves. What was left could not be bought by Catholics except under the penalty of excommunication; hence, in Catholic districts, the inability of the government to get hold of the property, or sell it at its real value.

The work of scattering the condemned organisations was done with tact and firmness. The officials were always considerate — the writer saw them more than once at work — but the law had to be enforced. In some of the most ignorant parts of the country, the Clericals so stirred up the masses, and misrepresented the law, that peasants assumed a very hostile atti-

tude. Some of the leaders would not have shrunk from shedding blood. In some cases public officers, going to convents, were cruelly beaten or drenched with unnamable liquids. They were so grossly abused that national sympathies, regardless even of the merits of the case, were with the representatives of the law. After closing 500 monastic institutions and 12,000 schools, and scattering 40,000 monks, friars, and nuns, M. Combes secured a great electoral victory and approval. The national endorsement must not only be counted, but weighed. Had it been signed, we should have read not only, as a matter of course, the names of the professional agitators of Anti-Clericalism, who are like all professional agitators, but also the names of men friendly to modern science, to modern culture, to sound ideas of justice; and a multitude of these names would have been those of earnest Catholics, and some of them, even, those of noble liberal Catholic priests.

The Law of Association, as a legal recognition of the rights of free citizens to combine, is so far a work above praise, but it is not a solution of the monastic question. It is, at best, the elimination of the most turbulent orders. There are probably yet in France 150,000 monas-

tics who continue most of their former work. In a large measure the future is in their hands. If they wish to continue the struggle, they will have great national corporations against them. Freemasons, the Federation of Labour, and other strong bodies will fight them. The time is no longer when the Church was the only great organisation by the side of the State. The orders must realise that, whatever be the violent elements antagonistic to them, the most intelligent and liberty-loving citizens dread them, and often hate them. The good monks, disliked even by many of their former pupils, must cease to pose as if they were hated because of their goodness. They must no longer represent their opponents as the embodiment of evil, for fair-minded men know that not to be true. Let the monastics lay aside calumny as a tool, put a little sweetness into their relations with their opponents, and accept principles of political equity without any mental reservation. Anti-Clericalism has had an easy victory, because it had a good case. France could not stand the Hispano-monastic régime, still flourishing beyond the Pyrenees. The orders must modernise their ideals and do their work by the side of the sons of free thought, the sons of Israel, or of Protestant communions on the basis of

common rights, of a common sincerity, of a common earnestness and solidarity. Then, and only then, will the monastic problem have received a practical and lasting solution.

CHAPTER XIII

THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

THE Anti-Clericals represent all those who have broken all bonds of external sympathy with the militant clergy. The majority of them are quiet, modest theists, largely driven out of the Church by the political interferences of the priests. Some have still the traits of the old Voltairians. Others resemble the materialists of the eighteenth century, though they give themselves out as Positivists. There are those of an extreme temperament who pose as the custodians of reason, the defenders of science, and the representatives of progress; but this means, in most cases, that they are religiously indifferent, irreligious, or agnostic. Some Freemasons among them are as intolerant as the orders themselves. Scientists are mostly Anti-Clerical, though moderate as a rule. The teachers, a noble body of men and women, are the greatest force of resistance against the efforts of sacerdotalism. The unscrupulous attacks of the clergy against the machinery of

State education have made them bitterly hostile and not infrequently irreligious. They describe the priests as "formidable and tenebrous," as "deceiving the masses," and in kindred terms. Were the manufacturers, the business men, and the farmers divided into two classes, the larger one would be found with the opponents of the clergy. The Socialists are a unit in their Anti-Clericalism.

In the Chamber of Deputies, Buisson, de Pressensé, Jaurès, Bourgeois, Brisson, Doumer, Delcassé, Trouillot, Millerand, and Briand constitute an Anti-Clerical group which, in ability, statesmanship, and character cannot be equalled by the twenty-five barons, dukes, and counts of the other side, even including worthy men like Count de Mun and Baron Denys Cochin. The same is true in the Senate. Anti-Clericals have with them the best educated and the most advanced sections of the country. Abbé Gayraud admits that "Anti-Clerical ideas have invaded the electoral body and that they control it. How small indeed is the number of the citizens who, in their public life, in the exercise of popular sovereignty, act like true Catholics, that is, care for the interests of religion and the needs of the Church! The reason for this is that the mass of electors have of Catholicism only

baptism, the first communion, the formalities of marriage, and a few practices imposed by customs and by social conventions.”¹

Such being the case, it seemed unfair for Catholics to ask the nation to support their Church. Anti-Clericals were not slow in showing this incongruity and at the same time accused the State Church of being a source of constant perturbation — that with the best intentions in the world the government could not satisfy her. Thus, at the beginning of 1873, the Catholics were greatly incensed because the officers of a man-of-war stationed at Cività Vecchia made a call upon the King of Italy in Rome;² a month later, because M. Fournier, ambassador to the Quirinal, had spoken kindly of the King, and received openly well-known non-Catholic Frenchmen.³ To please the friends of the Vatican the government kept a man-of-war at the disposal of the Pope⁴ — a fact which greatly irritated Italian patriots. This intensified the restlessness, the impatience, and antagonism of Anti-Clericals.

It must be borne in mind that, when the Separation came, in 1905, a great change had taken place in French politics as compared with

¹ *La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 43.

² *Revue des Deux Mondes*, Jan. 1, 1873, p. 219.

³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 1, 1873.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Jan. 15, p. 463.

the early days of the Republic. The Anti-Clericals were then where the Clericals had been. These, as soon as they could, under Mac-Mahon, placed bishops in the superior council of education; they put priests, *ex-officio*, on the boards of charities; they expropriated Parisian citizens to build that most unpopular church — the Sacred Heart of Montmartre; secured a very expensive system of chaplains for the army; accorded to Catholic higher institutions of learning the privilege of granting degrees; authorised thirty-six religious orders; raised the Catholic budget of worship, which was \$400,000 in 1801, to \$10,000,000.¹

At this time every public official from the President of the Republic to the least village constable was under their tutelage. They did their utmost to restore the old monarchical régime, to regain every privilege lost by, and since, the French Revolution. Every public official had to be as zealous in the cause advocated by the Church as possible. The bishops used all their influence with the Minister of Education against liberal professors, did their utmost to have them dismissed from their chairs, or attacked them, calling them “public poisoners.” In the common schools the Catho-

¹ Narfon, *op. cit.*, p. 270.

lic catechism was the prominent book, and woe to the teacher who did not display religious zeal! Most severe measures were voted against any association which "would tend toward the abolition of religion," whereby was meant any opposition to Catholicism.

Protestants, Jews, and Free-thinkers in the army, on some occasions, were compelled to attend the Catholic Church and to kneel before the altar at the command of their officers. Protestants, entitled by law to an honourable burial, were relegated to the corner of the cemetery reserved for those who had committed suicide. Protestant chapels were closed under the pretext that speakers had attacked the Catholic Church. The writer knew a Protestant missionary who was taken to the court of Draguignan, then to that of Aix, and finally to that of Nîmes, by a Catholic attorney bent on his condemnation for holding Protestant services. The circulation of Protestant books was hindered in a most vexatious manner. The majority of the Parliament, which was Catholic, refused to vote a law of religious liberty for all. Bishop Dupanloup, who opposed it, said that such a law would be revolutionary. They were on the side of liberty only when they opposed the bill on compulsory education. They acted

in perfect defiance of the national will. By their intolerance and grasping spirit they aroused the intelligence, the conscience, and the patriotism of the nation against them. At the following elections, February 22, 1876, popular indignation inflicted upon them a political defeat, from which they have not as yet recovered.

The Republicans had hitherto taken merely a defensive stand; now they assumed the offensive. A most active campaign was opened against the orders and their friends. Gambetta voiced national feelings when he exclaimed, "Clericalism is the enemy," and demanded liberation. Retaliation followed. Most of the privileges secured under Mac-Mahon were nullified. The State right to grant degrees, recently extended to Catholic institutions, was repealed.¹ In 1880 the high clergy and magistrates were excluded from the superior council of public instruction. Jules Ferry took steps which eventually resulted in the expulsion of the Jesuits. The mortmain property of the orders, which, by its very nature, paid no inheritance tax, was forced by law to pay sufficiently to make taxation alike for prop-

¹ The degrees are not, as in America, granted by any one school, but by the government. They are not only the recognition of certain attainments, but also of a virtual claim by the holder to State positions. This privilege of granting degrees cannot be too strictly guarded against the encroachments of sects or parties.

erty held by a monk or a layman. The friars and nuns, who had hitherto been allowed to teach without diplomas while common school teachers were not, were subjected to the same requirement. The teaching of the Roman Catholic catechism in the common schools was replaced by that of Morals. Non-Catholic patients had been so treated by some of the nuns in the hospitals that nurses took their places. Six faculties of Catholic theology were closed. As a matter of fact, the bishops, and not the Anti-Clericals, gave the death-blow to these institutions, but their extinction was considered another victory for Anti-Clericals. Catholic and Protestant theological students were drafted for military service, though for a shorter time than were other citizens. Religious processions in the streets were prohibited in communities where a large part of the public were opposed to them. Crucifixes over the entrance of cemeteries, in the schools or in the court houses were ordered to be removed.

There was hardly one of these reforms which the American public would not have approved, because they were all in favour of impartial law; and yet all were resisted by the Clerical party as sacrilegious assaults upon Church rights. Instead of disarming Republicans by reasonable

concessions, they aroused them still more. The harshness of the Clericals and the excitement of the clergy — only five priests formed an exception¹ — during the Dreyfus trial, and the violence of the monks called attention to the danger of monasticism.² Waldeck-Rousseau, pressed by public opinion, secured the Law of Association from the Parliament. M. Combes, carried along by the same movement, incited the Parliament to vote the exclusion of the orders from teaching. The clergy of France had enjoyed for over one hundred years the lucrative monopoly of burials. They were virtual undertakers, and received sixty per cent of the profits, even when the funerals were those of Free-thinkers, not attended with religious rites or forms of any kind.³ This monopoly was taken from them in 1904.

Though victorious all along the line in this battle of secularisation, Anti-Clericals were tired of this ever-renewed conflict. They were ready, like unflinching surgeons, to apply the knife to the bonds uniting Church and State. They had, in fact, already made some advance in that direction, when the Vatican offered them a signal opportunity so to do.

The Vatican had so signally failed to meet the

¹ Guyot, *Le bilan*, etc., p. 102.

² Narfon, *Vers l'Eglise libre*, p. 292.

³ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 119.

obligations of the Concordat that any attempt to justify its course before intelligent public opinion would have been frail and vain. The Gallican provisions of that agreement, which limited to a large extent the authority of the Pope over the French Church, had been disregarded, and the Ultramontane régime, which makes the Pope supreme, had been gradually established. Catholics may discuss among themselves the relative merits of the two ecclesiastical systems, but the fact is indisputable that Gallicanism was contemplated in the Concordat. There had also been a peculiar unscrupulousness in bringing about the transformation. In the case of a vacant bishopric the French government had the right to nominate an incumbent, who then received a bull of investiture from the Holy See. Without declaring the fact, the officials of the Vatican inserted in the bull of investiture the Latin word *nobis*, which changed the whole character of the Franco-Papal relations. By writing the bull as it had been for nearly a century, it was the President of the Republic that made the appointment; with the insertion of *nobis* it was the Pope.¹ When this clever ruse was discovered, the Quay d'Orsay declined to accept the

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 300; Debidour, *Histoire des rapports de l'Eglise et de l'Etat en France de 1789 à 1890*, vol. I, p. 83; vol. II, pp. 362, 389.

papal letters. After long and painful discussions the Pope was forced to surrender his inglorious *nobis*.

This incident was no sooner settled than another came up. Among the recent events most popular in France was the reconciliation with Italy. The loud demonstrations of loyalty toward the Vatican on the part of Clericals were generally followed by louder expressions of sympathy with the Quirinal on the part of French Liberals. They rejoiced when the King of Italy visited Paris, and when, later, M. Loubet went to Rome. This was the time chosen by Pius X to send a letter of protest. The attitude of French Catholics had forced Italy into the Triple Alliance, to the detriment, many Italians believed, of their own country. Rome, the cause of most political storms of France at home, was also a force of disturbance abroad.

Close upon this a new incident was to have more serious consequences. The hostility of the bishops against the government was not without exceptions. Several of the eighty-four prelates of the country, who had refused to join the others in their loud protests against the secularising tendencies of the government, created a great commotion. Their moderation seemed to cast reflection upon the course of their peers. This

rendered the former popular with the Republicans, while it had the contrary effect upon the Clericals. The whole body of Ultramontanes was against them. In two dioceses a regular boycott was organised against the bishops. Their antagonists did not shrink from making, right or wrong, the most serious charges against them in Rome. They were summoned thither to justify themselves; but when they failed to go, threatening letters were sent and a virtual deposition of the bishops took place.¹

This step, no doubt permissible from the point of view of ecclesiastical discipline, was contrary to the terms of the Concordat; for if the Pope cannot nominate a bishop, he cannot depose one without prior understanding with the government. M. Delcassé and his colleagues felt that the action of the Vatican had been determined much more by the moderation and the liberalism of the bishops than by their moral or ecclesiastical deviations. When he failed to obtain immediate satisfaction from Cardinal Merry del Val, the strained relations were broken. The French embassy to the Vatican was closed, and the nuncio in Paris was informed that his diplomatic functions had ceased. This was the end of the Napoleonic Concordat.

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 312.

The principle of separation of Church and State had been already defended by isolated Catholics. In 1872 the majority of French Protestant consistories were in favour of it, and their National Synod gave it much attention.¹ It had also been much discussed in Parliament. From 1877 onward the annual vote of ecclesiastical appropriations was the occasion of yearly discussions. In 1881 a proposition was made to the Chamber of Deputies to abrogate the Concordat.² In 1896 the proposal received 152 votes. In 1902 several proposals were made, sustained by 191 votes; and in 1904 the Separatists mustered 232 votes.³ Independently of the events in Rome, public opinion was moving rapidly; MM. de Pressensé, Hubbard, Florens, Réveillaud, and Grosjean with Berthoulat had presented projects of separation before the Chamber of Deputies in 1903. Deputy Sénac proposed a similar law in 1904, which was followed by the final bill of separation in 1905.

The disruption was "inevitable," says M. Chaîne.⁴ It was no new issue, though the acts of the Vatican has hastened its realisation. The Clericals resorted to all kinds of manœuvres to secure its postponement, but even the overthrow

¹ Bersier, *Histoire du synode général*, vol. II, pp. 3, 338, 339, and 341.

² Réveillaud, *La Séparation des églises et de l'état*, p. 134.

³ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. xxvii.

⁴ Chaîne, *Menus propos*, etc., p. 100.

of M. Combes did not help them. Those who had considered the separation impossible¹ now changed their minds. The debates reached a high degree of elevation. The bill was discussed brilliantly and eloquently during forty-eight daily or nightly sessions. Both sides had a profound sense of the vastness of the issues of the law. Both displayed uncommon powers in the defence of their respective positions. Though feelings were intense, the discussions remained within the domain of parliamentary courtesy. On July 4, 1905, the bill was passed by 341 votes against 233, and when on December 6, it was also voted by the Senate with a large majority it became law. We must examine its tenor.

The first article marks a new era in the history of religious freedom. This law begins with the following words: "The Republic guarantees freedom of conscience." Then it asserts that the French government neither knows, salaries, nor subsidises any religious body, exception being made in the case of chaplains in the colleges, hospitals, asylums, and prisons. The movable and immovable property of the State churches, the edifices excepted, are transferred to the religious associations who will have the

¹ Gayraud, *op. cit.*, p. 71; Réveillaud, *op. cit.*, pp. 186, 304.

care of the churches. Reasonable provisions are made for the present debts of some of the churches. All endowments for general charities go to the regular State charity organisations. In cases in which there are no religious associations, the property is devoted to the charities of the district. In all the transfers of property the State will not levy the usual tax. Clergymen over sixty years of age, and with over thirty years of ministry, receive three-quarters of their salary; those forty-five years old, with twenty years of service, are entitled to one-half. The clergymen in office, not belonging to either of the preceding classes, will receive full salary the first year, two-thirds of it during the second, one-half the third, and one-third the fourth year. In villages of less than 1,000 inhabitants all these periods are doubled. Professors in the Protestant schools of theology have considerate treatment. The cathedrals, churches, chapels, Protestant houses of worship, and synagogues remain the property of the State, but they continue to be used without compensation by the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish associations. The archbishops and bishops may continue to use the State palaces for two years. The clergy may continue to dwell in their manses; the theological seminaries and the Protestant fac-

ulties of theology may remain in their present buildings for five years. Provisions have been made for the preservation of objects and buildings which present a peculiar historical or artistic interest. The archives and libraries having documents and charters belonging to the State will surrender them to the institutions to which they properly belong. In the case of the sale of any object connected with religious buildings the churches will have a right to pre-emption. The religious associations must manage their affairs in a businesslike way. They must publish annual financial reports. The local religious associations may group themselves into unions. The church buildings remaining State property are free from taxes, the others are subject to the general law. Any church of any denomination may be opened by a simple declaration to the authorities.

It was to be expected that provisions would be made against possible abuses on the part of the Church. Political meetings in the churches are forbidden. Public processions and the ringing of the bells are left to the mayors. As municipal councils are elected by the people, and the mayors by the municipal council, the citizens will decide. Religious emblems are not allowed upon public monuments or public

squares, but may be placed upon religious buildings, in cemeteries, in museums, and expositions. Religious instruction cannot be given to children of the common schools during school hours. Threats to cause a child to be discharged, or any other threat on account of religion, will be severely punished. A heavy penalty will be inflicted upon those who may disturb or interrupt any religious service. Outrage or defamation of a public official from the pulpit will be severely repressed. Encouragement to resist the law of the country or to excite citizens against each other, followed by effects, makes a preacher liable to two years' imprisonment. Theological students are required to do only one year of military service instead of two, like other citizens, and in case of war are to serve in the infirmary corps. The Concordat is abrogated.¹

Protesting against the law, Pope Pius X, speaking as one "holding the place of Christ," says: "We condemn and reprove it as insulting to God, as contrary to the divine constitution of the Church, as favouring schisms, as hostile to our authority and to that of rightful pastors, as

¹It should be remembered that the expression, "the Concordat," is misleading. Other concordats had preceded it; that of 1472 between Sixtus IV and Louis XI, and that of 1516 between Leo X and Francis I. These concordats were not, any more than the Napoleonic one, abrogated by common consent.

confiscating the property of the Church, as opposed to common justice, as hostile to the Apostolic See and to ourselves," etc.¹ Archbishop Sonnois of Cambrai was even more violent. In a pastoral letter issued to his diocese, he placed large headings over paragraphs, pretending to give the purport of the law: "No More God," "No More Budget of Worship," "No More Churches," "No More Crosses," "No More Calvaries," "No More Images of the Holy Virgin Mary," "No More Religion," and concluded by appealing to the faithful in the same large type: "Catholics, is this what you wish?"² Such utterances, intended to arouse the people, produced the contrary effect.

What are the facts? A distinguished Catholic, and an untiring opponent of the Radicals, M. J. de Narfon, stated that the law was more liberal than Catholics could have expected.³ A group of eminent Catholics, ironically called "Green Cardinals," because almost all belonged to one or another of the five great academies, whose official color is green, sent a petition to the Pope begging him to accept the law. They spoke of its benefits as follows: "The most considerable of these advantages is assuredly

¹ *Vehementer nos*, etc.

² *L'Univers*, Jan. 7, 1906.

³ *Vers l'Eglise libre*, p. xix.

the liberty of ecclesiastical nominations. But there are others: the free and indefinite surrender of the places of worship, the temporary enjoyment — which may be extended — of the episcopal palaces, of the rectories, and of the seminaries, the privileges left to cultural associations to administer, under mere nominal control, \$40,000,000 worth of property¹ which constitutes the present patrimony of the churches of France, and, finally, the pensions and grants which, though limited, assure for the immediate present the daily bread of our priests. Never will any one succeed in making the people believe that a law which stipulates such advantages on behalf of the Church is a law absolutely hostile to religion.”²

The honest purpose of the law was to put an end to an intolerable situation. This law cannot have been so deficient after all, inasmuch as fifty-six French prelates voted in favour of submitting to it and only eighteen were against

¹ In the text, 200,000,000 francs.

² *Supplique d'un groupe de catholiques français au Pape Pie X*, p. 13. These Catholics were: Prince d'Arenberg, J. C. Ancoc, F. Brunetière, Comte de Caraman, L. de Castelnau, Denys Cochin, Léon Devin, A. Gigot, Georges Goyau, Comte d'Haussonville, H. de Lacombe, de Lapparent, A. Leroy-Beaulieu, G. Picot, H. Lorin, Ed. Rousse, Sabatier, R. Saleilles, Marquis de Ségur, E. Sénart, P. Thureau-Dangin, A. Vandal, Marquis de Vogüé. Montagnini, *Les Fiches pontificales*, p. 181. It would be difficult to find a nobler or more distinguished group of Catholics in any city of the world.

such a course.¹ They even went so far as to formulate rules for the new order of things.

Protestants and Hebrews accepted it with the sense that it was, as a whole, the best possible in the circumstances. The Catholics complained of the strict legislation against them, but it had been made necessary by their past as well as by their more recent history. Was there anything unreasonable in preventing the clergy from making the churches political centres? In view of the violent attacks of the clergy against the men of the government, was it unwise to forbid pulpit abuse of public officials? In America clergymen may do as they like, because they are in their own buildings erected with their own funds; but in France churches — most of them at least — belong to the State. Was it unfair to prohibit threats against any one on account of his or her religion? Was it “tyrannical” to forbid priests from inciting citizens against each other? In view of the fact that the management of the finances of the churches had been scandalously shocking and abusive in former days, was it unjust for the law to require regular accounting? Should a religious corporation be allowed practices which we would not tolerate for an instant in an insurance society?

¹ Chaine, *Menus propos*, p. 96.

If those concerning whom these laws were made do what they ought, the laws will not affect them; but if they wish to resist the national will, they will show the wisdom of this legislation.

The strongest objection of the Vatican was made to that feature of the Law of Separation which organised church boards, *associations cultuelles*. In its provisions the government gave the fullest possible autonomy to Catholic bodies. They themselves were free to elect their trustees as they liked. They could make them of men, of women, even of clergymen, or of all combined. These trustees could not be good Catholics unless they were in proper relations to their bishops.¹ As this election was absolutely in their hands, they could but be satisfactory. The doctrinal tests were entirely in their keeping. There the government could not interfere. Once elected, the trustees would have committed to them the buildings and the endowments, but nothing more. At this point the government claimed the right to see that the funds left were spent according to the purpose of the giver, and that the legacies for the training of men for the priesthood or for missions were used as originally intended. In that respect it required

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 330.

from them, without any humiliation or oppression, what it requires from neutral societies, that is, nothing but a "square deal." The Pope objected that this was contrary "to the divine government of the Church." To this his opponents answered that the Parliament was not a theological organisation, that it was bound to ignore everything about the "divine government," and that parliamentary action was limited to human relationship; that the proposed boards of trustees were far more liberal than similar Catholic organisations in Prussia, condemned by the bishops of the country, but accepted over their head by the Pope; that the Church which had acquiesced in the Concordat could accept anything, and that, finally, the great grievance of Pius X was that he could not control the ecclesiastical wealth of France, and thereby have a material hold over all the French clergy, and that for all time.

The accusation that the Republic has violated pledges made at the time of the Concordat, by which the State agreed to pay the salary of the clergy as a compensation for the loss of property at the time of the Revolution, is absolutely untenable. There is no reference to such an agreement in the Concordat or in the Organic Articles. Furthermore, there has never been

any record of such obligations in dealing with the national debt. Again, if there had been such a recognition, the amount of indemnity would have been fixed in a tangible manner. Such an indebtedness would have been determined accurately, and its instalments paid regularly upon a definite basis; but we find the government paying \$400,000 in 1801, and \$10,800,000 under Mac-Mahon.¹ Here is an increase of twenty-six fold. Such a huge increment cannot be understood if the \$10,800,000 paid the same debt in 1876 as the \$400,000 paid at the time of the Concordat, while the increase is perfectly intelligible on the basis that clergymen were paid for public service. In Napoleon's eyes, they were State officials.

The charges of confiscation of property, as a whole, are untrue. There never was a "property of the Church" under the *ancien régime*, but properties of parishes, properties of convents, and properties of other institutions. Without discussing this point, it suffices to say that under a Catholic king, Louis XVI, the National Assembly, in which there were three hundred and eleven priests,² made over to the State, in 1789, all ecclesiastical wealth, much of which had been the object of scandalous uses

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 270.

² *Moniteur universel*, 1789, p. 236.

by the higher members of the clergy. The churches were so completely considered State property that the government used them not infrequently for secular purposes. Napoleon transferred several of them to Protestants, whose own buildings had been given to the Church, confiscated, or destroyed during the seventeenth century. It is on that account that the *Oratoire* became the great centre of Protestant worship in Paris, and that the only *Eglise Sainte Marie*, in that city, is a Protestant church. The churches so obviously belonged to the State that when a Catholic parish became Protestant, the church was at once transferred by the authorities to Protestants for their worship.¹ At the death of Victor Hugo the Panthéon was secularised by virtue of the same principle. All the property used by Catholics was kept up, sometimes enlarged and beautified, with taxes levied upon every one, Free-thinkers, Jews, and Protestants as well as Catholics, and that for over a century. There have been cases in which there was something bordering upon confiscation, but that was only exceptional. Several churches erected with Catholic funds should have been restored to them absolutely; but even here, if we take the case of the Church

¹ Delapierre E., *Napoléon Roussel*, p. 128.

of the Sacred Heart of Paris, though the money came from the faithful, the land was secured while the Clericals were in power by a wholesale expropriation at Montmartre. Comte d'Haussonville, a distinguished Catholic, has shown¹ that upon this matter the law was liberal, that it was a virtual recognition of independent ecclesiastical property, to be administered by trustees elected by Catholics in their own way. The honest purpose of the Parliament was that Catholics should have the undisputed use of this property so long as there are French Catholics.

Another objection of the Church authorities was of a judicial nature. They raised the question: "Who in the matter of contestations will decide upon conflicting claims?" Were two Catholic associations to petition for the possession of the same property, who would judge in last resort? The writer will go as far as he who goes the furthest in his admiration for clergymen at large. He is ready to concede to French priests great merits of all kinds — zeal, earnestness, and unselfishness. France has never had a better clergy, better educated, better trained, and morally better than now, but it is a clergy incapable of impartial decisions. They wish to

¹ *Après la Séparation*, p. 22.

be judges in questions in which they are one of the parties. Thus in Culey (Meuse) the bishop dismissed the Abbé Hutin, while his parishioners wished to keep him. As soon as the churches preparing for *associations cultuelles* began their work, one hundred and thirty members of the church were for the priest, and about fifteen — some even questionable members — were for the bishop. Now, had this been referred to an ecclesiastical tribunal, it would have been decided on behalf of the bishop, and yet morally the property belonged to that overwhelming majority whose fathers had built the church, and who had themselves kept it in repair.¹ The Protestants raised no such objection. They had two associations claiming the same chapel, but in a few hours it was satisfactorily settled by arbitration. The French government made provisions to submit such cases to the *Conseil d'Etat*, which would decide in equity somewhat as the British Royal Commission has done with the wealth of the Free Church of Scotland. Again, the statement widely circulated that the courts of France were filled with the "creatures" of the government, as judges, counts for very little among those who have seen how frequently the French Bench has rendered — and still

¹ Lhermite and Maria Vérone, *La Séparation et ses conséquences*, p. 85.

renders — verdicts against the men in power. Recent decisions in reference to ecclesiastical rights to the use of buildings for worship have almost all been favourable to the Church.

The Separation and its legal provisions have been rejected by the Vatican. It claims that such a step should have been taken after the mutual consent of the signing parties, but such a course has never been pursued, and certainly all the concordats in France were abandoned without any such agreement. An understanding with Rome would have meant a national recognition that the Pope has a right to interfere in French secular matters, and this the people wished to avoid at any cost. The solution which has prevailed, contrary to the wishes of most intelligent Catholics, leaves clergymen as free as possible, but without any regular judicial title to the buildings in which they worship. Much wealth and many privileges were the price paid by French Catholics for rejecting a settlement which was honourable and fair. Rome had expected a terrible crisis and an uprising of the nation. The people fully realised on which side predominated the love of liberty and of fair play. The outcome of the crisis was most disappointing for the Vatican, as its representatives saw the perfect apathy of

the masses at the sight of ecclesiastical disestablishment. The next chapter views the question as it forced itself upon the French mind in general in those days.

CHAPTER XIV

THE CRISIS OF THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

IN the conflict between the Church and the State, if the liberty of Catholics had been threatened or destroyed, the writer would be the first to raise his voice in its behalf, for he believes in the political right of man to be or not to be religious, and, if he is, to be so in his own way. In the present crisis both sides claim that they are actuated by the spirit of loyalty to this principle. Each appeals to the non-partisan part of the nation in the name of freedom. There can be no better evidence of the national attitude toward liberty and fair play.¹ Historically, it is easy to demonstrate that the Catholic Church has always been hostile to liberty of thought, liberty of speech, and liberty of the press, not to speak of its unsympathetic attitude toward the larger political

¹ L'Abbé Gayraud recognises that what the majority of French voters wish is "justice, equal for all, the equality of all before the law, religious toleration; that is, to use a popular expression, to leave people free, and that each may do as he pleases." (*La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 44.)

liberty as viewed by Americans. Any one reading the encyclical letter *Quantâ Curâ* and the *Syllabus* of Pius IX, in which liberty is called "delirium," and "liberty of perdition," will be convinced upon this point.¹

Furthermore, wherever it can, the Church claims an exclusive position. This is evident from statements like the following, taught in the seminaries of France: "If in a country the unity of Catholic faith reigns, the State must not neglect anything to drive away novelties of doctrines and sophistries. In such a State, heresy is a public crime, because everything which is done against the divine religion touches all the members of society."² Louis Veuillot, the ablest journalist that Catholics ever had in France, embodied the whole truth in this matter in one of those striking sentences of which he

¹ Abbé Gayraud gives a list of some of the papal documents in which liberty is condemned: Pius VI, a brief of March 10, 1791, and a letter to Cardinal Loménie de Brienne; Gregory XVI, encyclical letter, *Mirari vos*, Aug. 17, 1832; Pius IX, encyclical letter, *Quantâ Curâ* and *Syllabus*, Dec. 8, 1864; Leo XIII, encyclical letters, *Quod apostolici*, *Arcanum divinæ sapientiæ*, *Humanum genus*, *Immortale Dei*, *Libertas præstantissimum*, *Sapientiæ Christianæ*, etc. (*La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 17.)

² Trouillot, *op. cit.*, pp. 51, 52. Lacordaire was unheeded when, long ago, he said: "Catholics, if you wish liberty for yourselves, you must wish it for all men under all skies. . . . Give it where you are masters, so that it may be given to you where you are slaves. (Quoted by Chainé, *Menus propos d'un catholique libéral*, p. 70.) M. J. de Narfon recognises that the Church has refused liberty to non-Catholics. (*Vers l'Eglise libre*, p. 254.) A zealous Parisian priest said to the writer: "We never spoke of liberty when we had the ascendancy."

was a master: "When you, Republicans, are in power, we demand liberty — that is your principle; when we are, we refuse it to you — that is our principle."

The Anti-Clericals are all Republicans bound by their past to principles of liberty. When they have been inconsistent, it has been while enforcing laws made by their opponents against Free-thinkers and Protestants. Republicans have not been unerring; they have still much of the spirit of the Church which taught them, but, as a rule, they have worked to make liberty more real and to enlarge its scope. There are men among them who with Paul Bert have ever been ready to say, "No tolerance for the intolerant"¹ — men inclined to apply to Clericals the ethical rule of David Harum, "Do unto others what they would do unto you, only do it first"; but these men are only a noisy minority. As a rule, Republicans have worked and fought for the extension of impartial law.

The question, however, which dominated every other during the recent crisis has been: "Cannot France settle her national affairs as England has done, or as the United States does? Can she not decide, in her own way, what she will or will not do?" The Clericals said No!

¹ Rambaud, *Jules Ferry*, p. 108,

France is bound to the Vatican by the Concordat, which was a "bilateral contract," "a pact," "a compact," or something of the kind which could not be given up by one of the signers. Cardinal Gibbons made it a sort of matrimony between the Church and the State — a most unhappy reflection upon marriage, for the Concordat was the source of ceaseless wranglings, of ever-renewed controversies, of annoyances for the State, and humiliations for the Church, so that it was the worst kind of *discordat*. The Concordat was not a contract, or a compact, but a truce between two irreconcilable belligerents, the binding character of which lasted as long as its terms were not disregarded. Now it is perfectly evident that the obligations of this agreement were trampled under foot by the Church as well as by Napoleon.

There has seldom been a more arrogant monopoly of religious liberty by one religious body. Excesses of all kinds against non-Catholics, and shocking partiality toward priests and monks, aroused the nation in such a way that the most truly religious men of the Church came to realise the religious estrangement which had taken place. Abbé Charles Perrault laments not only the reaction, but also the hatred, which had been called forth. "Gentlemen," said he

with sadness and gentle irony, at the opening of a course of lectures in Paris in 1881, "I will be frank with you: at the sight of that tornado of wrath against us, I was seized with strange fears. The priest is the enemy of his country; the priest is the enemy of science, the enemy of progress, of liberty, of democracy."¹ In the eyes of Liberals the priest, indeed, appeared as an enemy. It was he who urged Frenchmen to wage war against Italy for the recovery of the temporal power, a policy which could not be that of a friend of France.² It was he who maintained that the Church was above the State or tried to make it so. It was he who ever opposed the free scientist, was the foe of progress, and the apostle of mediæval ideals. Right or wrong, the intelligence of the country

¹ *Le Christianisme et le progrès*, p. 4. Twenty years later Abbé Gayraud made a similar statement. (*La République et la paix religieuse*, p. 272.) Comte d'Haussonville says: "What French democracy, right or wrong, reproaches the Church with is that she has an invincible regret for the time when the State considered itself . . . as the sergent of Christ, and was ready to put the secular arm at the service of the Spiritual Power — that she has not resigned herself to the neutrality of the Civil Power in dealing with different denominations and with the philosophical doctrines since the French Revolution — that she leans for the defence (of her claims) upon the support of the law; demands privileges, and does not accept frankly the new situation which has been created for her since Catholicism has ceased to be the State religion." (*Après la Séparation*, p. 65.) Mgr. Lacroix is even more emphatic: "The clergy of France are considered, in their own country, as a group of pariahs, as a separate caste, closed to all progress, to all light from the outside, hostile to all the aspirations of their contemporaries." (Chaine, *Menus propos*, p. 87.)

² Séché, *Jules Simon*, p. 231.

was arrayed against what was viewed as a yoke for the national mind. So strong was this conviction, and so deep were the feelings aroused by it, that the Clerical forces were defeated everywhere. When the victorious Republicans remembered what unwise use the clergy had recently made of their special privileges, they determined to wrest from them every prerogative and every advantage which they held over and above other bodies of citizens.

They began by removing the bishops from the Superior Council of the Ministry of Public Instruction. The friars — not to mention the nuns — could teach in the public schools by virtue of a *lettre d'obédience* from their superior. The Parliament decided that these monastics would have to provide themselves with a diploma like secular teachers. Both the authorised and the unauthorised orders played a very important part under Mac-Mahon; now the Jesuits were dispersed and the unauthorised orders were requested to apply for authorisation. But they did not; they defied the law as they had defied public sentiment. The nuns in the hospitals have often manifested no little intolerance in dealing with non-Catholic patients, and, together with Catholic chaplains, had tried to bring into the Church patients *in extremis*.

They had not infrequently organised what their enemies called *la chasse au cadavre* — corpse hunting. An inquiry of the Parliament revealed facts of such a nature that it was voted to replace the nuns by professional nurses. The orders, who with their mortmain property paid no inheritance tax, had to be brought down to a fairer basis, by paying annually an additional sum to make rates equal for the monks and the common citizens. In all the public schools of France were taught Roman Catholic prayers and the Roman Catholic catechism, contrary to the wishes, and notwithstanding the protests, of non-Catholic parents. The Parliament decided that prayers must go, and that the teaching of catechism must cease.

In the schools, the court houses, and over the entrance of cemeteries were crucifixes, madonnas and other indices of Roman Catholic devotion, before which every one had to stand or to pass. Anti-Clericals objected to seeing these symbols of Roman Catholic power in places which were strictly public. By the recent action of the clergy these insignia, which in other times would have been unnoticed, became irritating. The Parliament voted that they should be removed. The clerics who, hitherto, had been excused from all military service, were

asked to spend one year in the barracks — instead of two, the normal time then for all — to make them acquainted with the movements and life of the army, in which, during the time of war, they were to serve with the ambulance corps. The unauthorised orders, which had refused to ask authorisation from the State twenty years before, were compelled, by the Law of Association, in 1901, to disband, though the authorised orders remained untouched. On July 7, 1904, at the instigation of M. Combes, a law was passed preventing the orders from teaching, though this change was to have ten years for its consummation.

Every one of these measures, not uniformly wise or uniformly just, was represented by the Clericals as a war against the Church and against God. This threadbare accusation, repeated for a quarter of a century, has come to be regarded even by a large number of Catholics as an ecclesiastical cant phrase. The way in which the Clericals defended their cause won them but few friends. Their attitude strained the relations on both sides. France became divided into two camps by a water-tight compartment of passion and hatred. It was then that the news of the protest of the Pope was spread. The national indignation knew no bounds; the

French ambassador was recalled. Thereupon it was learned that the Pope had dismissed two French bishops. Immediately the Concordat relations were at an end.

M. Combes was in some ways the man of the hour. His great talent had largely consisted in keeping together all the Anti-Clericals. To the Clerical Bloc, owing its former power to its union and discipline, he opposed the Radical Bloc; both have had despicable methods. During the successive régimes of the nineteenth century, the Black Bloc always took advantage of the divisions of parties, or of the embarrassments of the government, to grasp some anti-Concordat privileges. Had this minister been longer in power and had not the incidents of Rome created a new situation, he would doubtless have done much to bring the Vatican back to a more faithful observance of its historic pledges. He had not worked for the severance of Church relations; but when it came, he was far from displeased. He lacked, however, the spirit of objective equity capable of organising the régime of liberty, and of framing laws of a just nature acceptable to all. The draft of a Bill of Separation made under him was narrow, vexatious, and tyrannical.

It was fortunate that at this juncture M.

Briand was made chairman of the parliamentary committee appointed to elaborate the bill for the Palais Bourbon. The Protestants had been quite distressed over the bill. He asked them what would make it satisfactory. When they pointed out its deficiencies, he recognised their justice, and convinced his colleagues that Protestant grievances were real; the bill was amended accordingly. The Israelites were asked the same question. When it was seen that they impugned only the harsh features of the Combes Bill, there was no reason for not giving them satisfaction. Similarly, M. Briand consulted with his Catholic colleagues; and these, all the while, had frequent conferences with the bishops. As they all — and rightly too — reprobated the Combes Bill, he urged them to state what would make it acceptable in their eyes. Their wishes were so far granted that the Catholic members considered it satisfactory. The Combes Bill was a war measure, that of Briand was one of conciliation, of equity and liberty. It showed such a fair spirit that the committee — with its Catholic majority — voted to present the bill to the House. It secured the approval of all the deputies except the extreme *Reds* and the extreme *Blacks*. M. Briand could have made his own the words of Huxley: “Fa-

natics on both sides abuse me, so I think I must be right.”¹

The brilliant debates in the popular Chamber only showed how well the Briand committee had wrought. The bill was passed by 388 votes against 146. In the Senate it was sustained by 179 votes against 103. This was the legal consummation of the Separation, after which the Parliament appealed to the country. Notwithstanding the campaign carried on by the Vatican, by the clergy, by the Clericals, and by every shade of conservatives, the Separation Law received a national sanction never dreamed of by its promoters. This was not a catch vote, a tricky surprise of the French suffrage, but one in keeping with the Republican majorities which have been more or less constant, though largely increased, since the overthrow of Mac-Mahon.

No one could have convinced the French people that the Law of Separation was hard or ungenerous. This was most eloquently asserted in a “*Supplication*” to the Pope by the most distinguished Catholics of France headed by the late Ferdinand Brunetière. The law which on

¹ *Life and Letters*, p. 389. Comte d’Haussonville praised M. Briand for his eloquence, his courage, his respect for liberty, and for religious beliefs. (*Après la Séparation*, p. 20.) M. Chaine, another Catholic, points out the conciliatory spirit of M. Briand, which met with no encouragement on the part of Catholic deputies. (*Menus propos*, p. 149.)

its very threshold guarantees "freedom of conscience" to all French citizens regardless of creed, could not be viewed as a "law of despotism" — the law which allowed Catholics to use the State Church buildings free of charge — the law which accorded to Catholics the use of national episcopal palaces, national manses, the national seminaries for several years without compensation — the law transmitting to them the endowments under proper guarantees — the law which granted pensions to the amount of \$5,400,000 to 30,000 Catholic priests and bishops — the law continuing their salaries for four years in many places and for eight years in twenty thousand villages of less than one thousand inhabitants; the law whereby two priests, nominated to their parishes two days before its promulgation, were entitled to their honorarium during four years, because of forty-eight hours of service¹ — this law could never be viewed by thoughtful persons as "a law of persecution." The utterances of Catholic prelates of the world, including those of Cardinal Gibbons, seemed to Frenchmen a mark of unreasonableness typical of the Roman Catholic clergy. What was most unfair in their sweeping generalisations against what they called *the law of*

¹ Lhermite and Vérone, *op. cit.*, p. 98.

despotism is that they gave people to understand that former conditions were more liberal, while in reality the Concordat, the *Articles organiques* that go with it, and the Penal Code of the First Empire which supplemented both, constituted for the Church an oppressive situation without precedent in French history.

The Concordat was not an agreement of principles, but the acceptance by Pope Pius VII of a situation. This acceptance was considered so humiliating and disgraceful for the Church that it gave rise to a schism known as *la petite église*.¹ Joseph de Maistre, an extreme Ultramontane, characterises this act of Pius VII as follows: "The crimes of Alexander Borgia are less revolting than this hideous apostasy of his weak successor." The persecutions of Napoleon and those of Louis XVIII did not bring back all the malcontents, and *la petite église* has survived to this day. The Pope wrote to eighty-one bishops and, evincing little sense of humour, asked them to hand him their "spontaneous resignations" and to accomplish the "free act" which he imposed upon them, but thirty-six refused.² In 1809, when Napoleon seized Rome, Pius VII, seeing how he was

¹ *Le Temps*, March 23, 1906; Narfon, *op. cit.*, p. 78.

² Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 98.

treated by the Great Corsican, called him "the new Ahab." In the most shameful manner Napoleon made him his prisoner, sent him as such to Savona, then to Fontainebleau where, for five years, he remained in captivity. The emperor endeavoured to turn the bishops against him, but in vain. He had some of them arrested, and, at his downfall, five hundred priests were in prison.¹

This is the man whose regulations the Catholics have lately idealised. By the Concordat, and the Organic Articles added by Napoleon and, for the fear of something worse, accepted by Rome, the Pope had scarcely any rights in France. He could not appoint bishops, create new dioceses, correspond with the clergy, except through the government. Now he may nominate and institute whomsoever he pleases, of whatever age he likes, double or halve the number of dioceses, correspond directly by such means as suit his convenience. He has *carte blanche* with all representatives of French Catholicism. According to the Concordat,² the bishops could hold no national council, no provincial synod, no deliberative assembly of any

¹ Réveillaud, *ibid.*, p. 78.

² Taine has made it evident that the Concordat was bad for religion, bad for the high as well as for the low clergy, and especially for the State. (*Les Origines de la France contemporaine. Régime moderne*, vol. II, pp. 60, 74, 77, 136.)

kind; now they may have all possible national councils, hold any number of provincial synods or any other kind of representative gathering. In 1801 they could not leave their dioceses or omit to visit every one of their parishes every five years. They could not start a new parish. They were obliged to take the oath of allegiance and to be ordained after the ways of the Gallican Church. They could have but one seminary per diocese, and have none but Gallican professors; they could not ordain students unless they were twenty-five years of age and had an income of three hundred francs a year, and had secured the approval of the candidate by the government. They were not even free in the matter of their costume; they had to wear violet stockings. They were allowed but one liturgy and one catechism for the whole of France.

By the Law of Separation not one, *not even a little one*, of these restrictions survives. They are all swept away. By the Concordat situation the priests were compelled to take the oath of allegiance, recite prayers for the government, reside in their respective parishes, remain in one diocese, have no new religious holiday, use a definite calendar, avoid processions in the streets if there were other denominations in the

town, avoid abusing other denominations in their preaching, omit all other exercises in their church except worship and preaching, perform religious marriages only after civil marriages had taken place, have a board of church-wardens, *fabriques*, for the preservation of church buildings and the distribution of charities. The nature of their dress was also stated. Domestic chapels and private oratories were not allowed without the permission of the government. To crush *la petite église* and all Catholic dissent, no priest could exercise any function unless he belonged regularly to a diocese, that is, was regularly under a bishop. Furthermore, in the case of abuses, appeal was made, not to the Pope, but to the Council of State. The matter of marriages aside, all these limitations have been removed, and the Pope is the final authority in all religious questions, and as unrestricted in the legal exercise of his functions as in the freest land in the world. Napoleon subjected the Catholic clergy not only to the Concordat and the Organic Articles that go with it, but also to the Penal Code, which punished clergymen with a really Draconian severity, sending them to prison for criticism or censure of the government, of a law, of a decree, or of any other public act of the servants of the State.

Nothing brings out the genuine liberal character of the Law of Separation like a comparison with the tyrannical character of the régime inaugurated by the Concordat.¹

In presence of such facts one cannot understand the protests of Catholics if they speak of the liberty they enjoyed under the Concordat. They did not fulfil its obligations, but clung to its material benefits. At times under Catholic kings the authorities made upon the clergy demands as vexatious as ridiculous. Thus Minister Barthe sent a circular ordering the clergy to baptise with warm water in winter and with cold water in the summer. Similarly, under Louis-Philippe, the government watched the clergy to see if they sang *Domine salvum fac regem* followed by *Ludovicum Phillippum*.² To-day they have not one of these annoyances.

Furthermore, the action of Pius X went against the grain of French Catholic feelings. We have already stated that the Catholic members of the parliamentary committee were working harmoniously with the bishops, and they thought that the Separation Law was acceptable and would be accepted — that the most distin-

¹ Strange to say, Caprara, the plenipotentiary of the Pope, speaks in his letters as if he had been more perplexed by matters of trivial importance than by this enslaving of the Church. (A. Debidour, *Histoire des rapports de l'Eglise et de l'Etat de 1789 à 1870*, p. 223.)

² Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 210.

guished Catholics of France had pleaded with the Holy See to try it. The majority of the bishops had been in favour of a conciliatory attitude; but when the Pope rejected the law and commanded the Catholics to disobey the government of their country, his action was primarily due to the influence of Mgr. Lorenzelli, the nuncio, later on made Archbishop of Lucca — pronounced spitefully by many French Catholics *archevêque de Lucrè* — suggesting thereby characteristics of an unworthy representative of the Vatican.¹ The decision of the Pope was most emphatically affected also by the advice of Mgr. Montagnini, a man signally incompetent to gauge the situation, and whose correspondence² has called forth most sincere pity for the Pontiff dependent upon such information.

The most striking fact, in connection with this event, is the satisfaction it seemed to produce in the minds of Frenchmen at large. The efforts made to disturb their impassibility have proven vain. The extreme language of the Pope, of the bishops, of the priests, and of their militant laymen has often been considered excessive by Catholics themselves, and always disingenuous by Free-thinkers. The latter have not infrequently pointed out, not without a

¹ Narfon, *ibid.*, p. 303.

² *Les Fiches pontificales*, 1908.

little malice, that, while they, the clergy, rebelled against the new legal situation, they accepted the pensions. The priests rejected the law, but in cases where *associations cultuelles* complying with the new order of things secured the churches, they used this same law to have the churches returned to them on the plea that *associations cultuelles* were not approved by the Pope. The courts decided in favour of the clergy, on the ground that the purpose of the legislators was that Catholics in good standing should have the use of the churches. Here, again, Free-thinkers pointed out that, after rising against the law, the clergy were making use of it. There are those who had admired Pius X when he defiantly, and at a great cost, opposed the Republic; but when they saw the clergy take the pensions and use the law on account of its benefits — rejecting its obligations — the impression was painful.

The rank and file of parish priests are quiet and peace-loving. Were they left to themselves, they would not disturb the authorities. They are goaded to action by the bishops who of late have again taken up arms against some of the text-books used in the common schools. As ever, they have been absolutely tactless. They made charges against the morality of

teachers; but when these teachers threatened to sue them before the courts, they answered that the word *moral* as used by them did not mean what was reprehensible in the lives of teachers, but that they were out of touch with the Church. Again, as to the text-books they were forced to state which ones were bad. Those indicated were so few that the people, who had hitherto given no attention to the matter, came to realise what a rich collection of sound manuals of moral teaching the nation has. Some had been used for years in Catholic schools without any complaint. The prelates have also assailed the historical text-books. They even dared to condemn Lavissee's *Histoire de France* — a book generally conceded to be admirably impartial.

In the interpellations which took place in Parliament in January, 1910, it was shown that moral and historical teaching was far from ideal in the Catholic schools themselves. Minister Doumergue quoted the following from the text-book of morals used in Pas-de-Calais: "How much must one steal so that there should be a mortal sin?" The answer was: "From a poor man, one franc; from a workingman to the amount of a day's wages, that is, three or four francs; from a rich man, no matter how rich

he is, ten or twelve francs.”¹ His quotations from their histories are not better. It would be a thousand pities to judge the text-books on both sides by their deficiencies, for as a whole they are remarkable, but the aggressors must not be astonished if Republicans resent the attacks of the bishops against such books or their threats against the teachers. The incapacity of the prelates to state facts as they are is evident from an address of Bishop Laurans of Cahors, before the Court of Agen, whither he was summoned because of some of his utterances against the schools. “Formerly,” he said, “no European was admitted into Japan without trampling the crucifix under foot. That hateful practice has long been suppressed in the Empire of the Rising Sun. But we do not wish that it should be established in the land of France, and that Catholic children should be compelled to deny their baptism before they cross the threshold of the common schools.”² This is a fair specimen of the grotesque exaggerations of some of the bishops. One of their charges against the text-books of morals is that they do not teach the doctrine of “the original sin” or “the supernatural.”³ For

¹ *Le petit Temps*, Jan. 19, 1910.

² *Le Siècle*, July 31, 1909.

³ *Lettre pastorale collective des évêques de France*, 1909. Also *Ordonnance de condamnation de Mgr. Villard, évêque d'Autun*, 1909.

the non-Catholic children of the common schools they have no regard, and they aim at nothing short of having Catholic doctrines taught to them.

All this militant activity availed the Church but little. Had the efforts made in various directions to discredit and overthrow the Republic been exerted to win, to instruct, and train the churchless masses to a better life, the clergy would soon have regained their ascendancy. There was no longer the presumption that they were the tools of the government as formerly. Their purpose was not so likely to be misunderstood. The present war has given them a signal opportunity which they are using to recover some of the lost ground. Forgetting, for the present at least, the old conflicts, they have given the noblest manifestations of their humane and fearless devotion. The Anti-Clericals have also moderated some of their claims of absolute State secularism, but whatever befall, French democracy has passed a final judgment upon the great issue which we have discussed, and will never agree again to a virtual papal protectorate over the country.

CHAPTER XV

CONTEMPORARY FRENCH PROTESTANTISM

FRENCH Protestantism is an offshoot from Catholicism. Its relations to the old historic Church are different from those which American Protestant churches sustain to the Church of the present Pope. That of France is an ever-protesting Protestantism, growing away from the old Church, and yet still feeling its influence for good or for evil at every step. The blunders of Rome have often proven calamities for French Protestants. To be just, one must remember that, contrary to common opinion, Catholicism never completely conquered the native religions of France — that beneath many of the religious practices in some districts are still the earlier faiths, the cults of the Druids, and, in Brittany, to this day, druidical gods are still worshipped under the name of saints, though these saints are not in the Roman Catholic calendar. In many parts of France practices with no religious character still survive, which are remnants of primitive cults. French Protes-

tants all along have fought what they considered the superstitions of Catholicism, which were in reality the survival of the old ethnic religions which the clergy never were able to extirpate. Again, at the height of her power, the Church almost worshipped theological, philosophical, and ecclesiastical immobility. For her the most dreaded enemy was the innovator. In this French reformers were at one with the Catholic clergy. When they were accused of being innovators, they denied the charge. They simply wished, they asserted, to go back through past changes to Christ; they were the true conservatives. The idea of progress¹ had never entered as yet into the French mind. It was in the name of conservatism that Protestants began their work. Their religious conceptions were shaped by one of the greatest men who ever lived, John Calvin, who inspired and to some extent organised the churches of France.

The first Protestant church was formed at Meaux in 1525, and from that time to the dawn of the French Revolution, with only one important break of continuity, the history of French Protestants is a long martyrdom, with paroxysms of intensity, such as the Massacre

¹ The word progress was first used in French literature by Voltaire in 1737.

of Vassy, the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, the Dragonades, and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. In 1685 the seven hundred pastors who were left were compelled, within the space of two weeks, either to recant or to leave the realm. Their churches were destroyed, their schools closed, and their property confiscated. Their books were sought for and burned. From 1678 to 1802, no Protestant version of the Bible nor any other Protestant literature was printed in France.

It is estimated that at least five hundred thousand Huguenots fled during these persecutions. Some found their way to South Africa, where French names are still common among the Boers. Some fled to Switzerland, the French part of which contains, to-day, a large Huguenot population. Others sought refuge in Germany, where we find the town of Fredericksdorf with its archaic French tongue, its French customs, and its French Protestant liturgy in the church. Still others fled to Holland, where there are yet nearly a score of French churches. Many reached England, and we find still in Bristol and Norwich unused Huguenot churches, as well as a very prosperous one in London. In the crypt of the Canterbury Cathedral French services, inaugurated at the Revocation of the Edict of

Nantes, have not been discontinued to this day. Not a few of these noble exiles came to America, made large settlements in the South, had churches in New York, were predominant in the settlement of Kingston, founded New Paltz, New Rochelle, settled in Massachusetts, and were numerous in Boston, where Faneuil Hall was named after one of them. Bowdoin College also bears the name of a Huguenot. Priscilla Molines was Huguenot, and others on the *Mayflower*. The total emigration is conceded to have been half a million persons, and it is estimated that had it not been for the Revocation, France would have now at least 6,000,000 Protestants instead of 700,000. Those who emigrated carried everywhere a highly respected name, were thrifty, broad-minded, and progressive, God-fearing men.

Of the ministers who remained at home after the Revocation, about one hundred were put to death. All Protestants were subjected to a barbarous treatment which set on fire the soul of Voltaire against their oppressors. Children were torn from the arms of their parents to be taken to convents, where they were taught Catholicism. The poor Huguenots were seen crossing France, chained with vile criminals, on their way to the galleys. One of them was con-

demned for life because he had taught boys to sing psalms. It was a crime, punishable as such, to give them shelter or to fail to denounce them to the authorities. As late as 1767 a Protestant minister was condemned to death because he was a Protestant minister. Yet these Huguenots, as a whole, remained remarkably steadfast. They would walk the greatest distances to hear preachers upon whose heads a great price had been set, and whose voices seemed to echo the preaching of the early martyrs of the Church. They gathered and worshipped by night, in the unpopulated parts of the country, and their meetings became known as those of the Church in the Desert. They were often surprised by the king's soldiers, fired upon, killed or captured; the men were sent to the galleys for life and the women to prison. Marie Durand spent thirty-six years in the Tour de Constance at Aigues-Mortes, and Madame Guizot, the mother of the historian, was hit by a bullet at a night service in the fields near Nîmes.

The Huguenots, even in these circumstances, dared to hold a synod in an old abandoned quarry of the South. One may realise what the persecution must have been by the fact that of the first signers of the minutes of this synod,

four died the martyr's death. Until the very eve of the French Revolution they were still forced to go to mass and were ostracised by law. What was most galling for them, and worked most deeply into their moral sensitiveness, was that Protestant marriage was considered null, and that they, the puritans of the puritans, the purest men and women of Europe, were looked upon as living in concubinage. Their greatest grief was that their children were considered illegitimate. The Church did not cease her relentless persecution of Protestants until the eve of the French Revolution. As late as 1774, when Louis XVI was crowned at Rheims, he was virtually forced to take the following oath: "I swear that I will apply myself sincerely and with all my power to exterminate, in all the lands under my dominion, the heretics particularly condemned by the Church." However, the sentiment fostered by Voltaire along the line of toleration, the influence of the Encyclopedists and the efforts of La Fayette brought about the Edict of Toleration of 1787, which gave the Huguenots a relief soon to be eclipsed by the French Revolution. Some of the men who had survived the persecutions of the *Ancien Régime* perished during the mad excesses of the *Terreur*. This closes the first period of their history.

Two or three considerations must be borne in mind at this point. In the first place, Huguenot history renders to the Christian Church and to historical science a great service in being a complete refutation of the historic theory of races as the ultimate determinants of religion. The study of the rise and development of French Protestantism shows us how untenable is the assertion that Germanic nations are Protestant and that the Celtic are Catholic. We know positively now that man was present in France during the paleolithic and the neolithic periods. During thousands and thousands of years of prehistoric times man dwelt there, and numerous immigrations followed one another up to the time of the Roman Conquest. Then came the Germanic invasions and constant ethnological contributions of the whole world to the French people, who are therefore neither Celtic nor Latin, but mixed to the highest degree with a preponderance of Celto-Germanic elements.

Anthropology enables us to locate the parts of the country which are particularly Celtic or Germanic. Now it happens that the districts in which Protestants are most numerous are not Germanic, and the most important part of the nation which contains a Germanic population is Catholic. The same thing is true in Switzerland

where the French are Protestant and the Germans are often Catholics. It is so in Belgium, where Protestantism is making rapid gains among the French and has no encouragement among the Flemish, who are Germanic. This is very important, for the Gobineau doctrine is not only historically erroneous, but it saps the very foundation of Christian teaching. It is a return to Judaism, which makes blood, rather than spiritual forces, the great determinant of religion.

A second consideration is that the exile and the partial destruction of the Huguenots not only took away the best men of France morally, but also those of the greatest intellectual elasticity. This loss of the Huguenots was a most unnatural selection, for it was the elimination of the best and the noblest. The men who succeeded in making their escape were men of means, and acquainted with the countries near them. The poorer, the less enterprising, and the least educated remained at home. The stock from which the Protestants of France have issued, though a remarkable stock, is a stock of remnants revived by their faith and the inspiration of their ancestry.

It has been customary to speak of Napoleon I as the restorer of religion in France by the

Concordat, but the religious life had resumed its normal course long before this time. In 1796, 32,214 churches were already reopened to Catholic worship, and 4,571 were on the eve of being reopened. A year later Bishop Lecoq of Rennes asserts that 40,000 parishes were provided with priests.¹ In 1795 the Protestants reopened their churches and resumed their ecclesiastical life. The exceptional situation of all Protestant churches in France at this time was scarcely abnormal for them, for these sons of the Reformed churches had long been accustomed to live under hostile edicts, to bear régimes of petty toleration, and to endure barbarous persecutions.

To many, however, the Bonaparte appeared as the restorer of Protestantism. Indeed, he assured them that they should enjoy "freedom of worship," and stated a great political truth, which he forgot in practical life, when he said: "The realm of the law ends where the indefinite realm of conscience begins." Neither the Church nor the State had ever gone that far even theoretically. However, he refused them their synodal organisation, so essential to their ecclesiastical life; he prevented them from giving a constitutional expression to their faith; he sup-

¹ Debidour, *op. cit.*, p. 161.

pressed their parishes and established, instead, consistories whose members were elected by those paying the most taxes; he gave a certain freedom to these organisations, but prevented them from working together;¹ he took away the power of the churches over their pastors, who were settled for life and became State officials — thus reducing the Church to a part of the State machinery. He gave Protestants, however, guaranties which were new. To these sons and daughters of martyrs, for whom persecution had almost always been a concomitant of life, he virtually said: "You will, hereafter, enjoy all the privileges of citizenship, your marriages shall be honoured, your children freed from former disgrace, and your sons, when their merit and character shall designate them, may be elevated to high military and civil distinctions. You will have your own churches, your own organisations, protected by the government; your worship regulated and safeguarded by law; your pastors paid by the State. They will come, in State functions, immediately after Catholic bishops, but on a par with them." This was far more than the Protestants had ever expected. He did much for them.

¹ Bersier, *Histoire du synode général de l'église réformée de France*, vol. I, p. xxx.

Protestants sounded the praises of their benefactor. One of their preachers, in Strasburg, six years after the Concordat, took his text from Luke 1:32, "He shall be great,"¹ and made that prophetic reference to Jesus apply to Napoleon. Three years later, on the occasion of the opening of the School of Protestant Theology of Montauban, the dean chose for his text, or rather for his pretext, Ezra 7:27, "Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem."² The "king" here is Napoleon and the "house of the Lord" is the school of theology. The Protestants lacked, as do all the persecuted, the necessary poise for a true appreciation of the course of the "Man of Might." What else could have been expected from men who had but a very imperfect education, and had lived through the terrible disabilities of the *Ancien Régime* and the horrors of the French Revolution?

Their theology went scarcely beyond a mere theism with the acceptance of the miraculous element of the Bible, but was far away from

¹ Vincent, A., *Histoire de la prédication de langue française au dix-neuvième siècle*, p. 19.

² Sardinoux, A., *Mémoire universitaire et ecclésiastique sur la Faculté de théologie protestante et le Séminaire de Montauban*, 1888, p. 34.

even the broadest Christology of modern evangelical churches.¹ Their preaching hardly ventured outside of the affirmations of natural religion. Some of them had read English deists, but not the works of their critics, such as Butler and others. Their pulpit themes were moral commonplaces, such as "The Beauty of Virtue," "The Ugliness of Vice," "Politeness," "Respect Due to Old Age," "Hasty Judgments," "False Confidence in Prosperity," and "The Advantages of Mediocrity."² The divinity of Jesus is almost never referred to. "He came," they say, "to reveal the moral law more clearly to us." His kingdom is "the kingdom of moral order over wills and the perfect harmony between virtue and happiness." "His mission," declares another, "is to renew the ordinances of justice." "He has become our guide," says yet another, "in the path of truth."³ This homiletic superficiality was soon broken through by the influence of Germany, which taught Protestants how to study the Bible, to fathom theology, and to deepen religion. Thereupon arose a movement which gave a new character to this intellectual progress. From Switzerland and from Great Britain came an irresistible wave of

¹ Bersier, *ibid.*, p. xxxiv.

² *Ibid.*, p. 7.

³ Vincent, A., *op. cit.*, p. 5.

religious impulse which awakened the churches to an unusual spiritual fervour. This period is known in French Protestant history as *Le Réveil*. Again, the British, and later on the Americans, taught French Protestants how to make a spiritual use of their knowledge by organising their religious works.

This foreign influence was not an unmixed good, for from across the Rhine came rationalism and from Great Britain a superficial Biblicism and a needless Protestant denominationalism. France had already Lutherans as well as Calvinists; to these were now added Free-Churchmen, Methodists, Baptists, Adventists, Swedenborgians, Campbellites, and several others. French Quakers were not an importation, for in France this body existed probably as early as in England, though the two bodies were unknown to each other.¹ All these denominations, with a certain amount of self-reliance and different organisations, exerted, as a whole, a good influence upon the Huguenot churches, goading them to a greater activity. French Protestants have had their ideas coloured also by Catholicism. In the matter of pastoral relations their ministers are yet endowed with a semi-sacerdotal function, and the communion

¹ Jaulmes, E., *Les Quakers français*.

itself is, for some, a sacrament, imparting externally a divine grace; at times, when given to the sick, it is a virtual extreme unction. This is not the direct result of teaching but of traditions, and, above all, of the force of example continually before them. All French Protestants feel constantly the power of the Catholic Church either by imbibing her ideas or by way of anti-Catholic reaction. When this is the case, they become sensitive to the influence of materialistic thought. Among the advanced liberals there is often no little sympathy with extreme materialists. In their contact with these men they absorb their optimism, which gradually displaces the pessimistic moroseness of a large number of Protestants. It must be admitted that, without giving up any particular doctrine, they have assimilated hedonistic notions so far advocated only by positivists.

The influence of relations with the State has been felt all along and especially by the evangelical element. The evil of the system was the lack of spiritual independence and only a partial subordination to the spiritual head of the Church. With all our admiration for the liberals, we cannot but deplore their former fear of losing State support and their lack of faith in their own adherents. Standing boldly for an

unrestricted freedom of theological thought, they have clung tenaciously to a most humiliating system of State-Church financial support.

The numerical growth of the churches has not been great. Pastor Perrenaud calculates from reliable data in the correspondence of Rabaut-Dupuis that in 1802 there were 428,000 Protestants in France.¹ M. Frank Puaux, from another source, sets them at 525,000.² To halve the sum of these two estimates would give us 475,000 Protestants at the beginning of the nineteenth century. They number now about 700,000. The numerical gain has therefore been relatively small, but their advance in other respects has been very important. The formula which represents their history during the last hundred years is the expansion of life.

The first manifestation of this expansion was the making of a new ministry. At first the pastors received a superficial training in Geneva. Later on a school of theology was revived in Montauban. The programme of preparation for the ministry was fairly good, but theological students were far from displaying a proper spirit. Some there were who chose the ministry to avoid military service. The habits of a con-

¹ *Etude historique sur les progrès du protestantisme en France*, 1889, p. 201.

² *Les œuvres du protestantisme français au XIX^e siècle*, p. xxxi.

siderable number were such that the authorities repeatedly threatened with punishment those "seen in café-houses, in billiard-halls, at the theatre, at balls, and in gambling places."¹ Later another school was opened in Strasburg, but after the Franco-Prussian War it was transferred to Paris. The students in both schools of theology now are morally and spiritually equal to those of Protestant institutions anywhere.

Three preparatory schools, with a healthy religious and intellectual atmosphere, lead their students to the baccalaureate of letters which is required for entrance to the regular course in the theological schools. The Protestant primary schools, once quite numerous, were merged into those of the State, under the Third Republic, because the principle of freedom of conscience which had occasioned their creation had triumphed, as a whole, in common schools. Most pastors began their education there.

Friendly to every form of progressive education, Protestants, helped by the State, wished to have ministers broadly trained, and through them to bring all the world of truth, of philosophy, and of science to the service of religion. What a contrast between the Protestant clergy of seventy years ago and that of the present!

¹ Sardinoux, *op. cit.*, p. 37.

Thus, on May 1, 1839, 428 men were in different capacities exercising pastoral functions, and only one was a university man.¹ The 90 or 100 ministers of 1802 have become at least 1,000, who constitute a ministry second to none, if we consider merely intellect and conduct. The calling is highly honoured. That remarkable Monod family, which has produced such uncommon men in various walks of life, has a dozen representatives in the ministry at the present hour. It is not infrequent that all the sons of a pastor become ministers. At the Synod of Paris, in 1872, it was said that one of the delegates present had found himself, on one occasion, surrounded by 17 pastors, former members of his Bible classes.² These pastors are bound together not only by ecclesiastical ties, but also by many organisations, the aim of which is greater qualification for their ministry, mutual culture, and mutual help.

As to their tenets, the most rationalistic pastors, to judge from their preaching, are more religious than the men of Napoleon's time, while the others represent a broad and, as a whole, an earnest orthodoxy, ranging from that of men like Doctors Abbot, Gordon, and Moxom to that of Pierson and Moody. In all bodies of

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 78.

² Bersier, *op. cit.*, p. 329.

men we can, at best, strike averages; the average of intelligence, of earnestness and consecration among French Protestants is high, although they have their unworthy members and their ecclesiastical parasites. They are generally esteemed by their flocks for their sincerity and the absence of subtleties which are so common among theologians. They are respected inside and outside of their congregations. Owing to the lack of development of the lay element in the churches, the pastors might often say, *L'Eglise, c'est moi*. Under the system ended by the Separation, the Church, the real Church, counted for but little; the pastor was preacher and virtual administrator of his flock. This has now come to an end. In many ways French pastors have exerted much power by themselves, and often, also, by their sons and their daughters. In general the sons of ministers are important rising social factors. When one thinks of the untrained half-deistical pastors of a century ago and the thousand active and fairly progressive pastors of to-day, he is sensible of a marvellous change.

Another manifestation of this Protestant life is the making of most important instruments for church work. In 1802 the sons of the Huguenots had not one page of printed matter which

they could use as their own, no religious literature, and no Bibles. It took them twenty years to furnish themselves with copies of the Scriptures, and these were obtained only with exceptional difficulty. Now they have Bible societies, not to speak of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which works with them and employs half a hundred colporteurs to spread the sacred volume throughout the land. Together these societies have distributed in France not far from 15,000,000 Bibles and New Testaments. It is difficult to exaggerate the good work of their Tract Society, whose publications have generally maintained a high level. Years ago Saint-Marc-Girardin read one of these tracts before his hearers at the Sorbonne, illustrating a literary point which he was discussing.¹ The Protestant Publication Society circulates good, healthy books which, though not very literary, meet a popular want.

Never has a small religious body made a greater use of the press. Three of their reviews are really valuable — *La Revue chrétienne*, *La Revue de Théologie*, and *Foi et Vie*. For over half a century they have had a historical society which has displayed great energy in collecting and publishing documents of a most valuable

¹ Saint-Marc-Girardin, *Cours de littérature dramatique*, vol. I, p. 74.

character upon the history of their fathers. Indeed, among French Protestants, reverence for ancestors takes the form of a cult. To honour them is in their mind an homage to the Great Power that made them great.

Though they have been inclined to translate the best works of foreigners and have assimilated much of the best foreign thought, Protestants have also produced a large number of books of considerable power, many of which have had the honour of being translated beyond French frontiers. The great work of Edouard Reuss, *La Bible*, the *Encyclopédie des sciences religieuses* by the *élite* of French Protestant thinkers, the historical and philosophical works of de Pressensé and of other theologians and literary men, reflect great credit upon their intellectuality. Their women writers, Arvède Barine, Madame Coignet, Madame de Pressensé, Madame Bersier, and many others have produced works of high moral worth, as broad in their human sympathies as they are loyal to their religious ideals.

Another manifestation of their life is philanthropy. They have over forty orphanages and their homes for the aged are equally numerous. It is difficult to give an adequate idea of their charities. The theological students of Paris and

Montauban, aside from various other organisations, have societies to visit and help the poor. The deaconesses have in their institution a preparatory department for training new sisters, a hospital, and a reform school for girls. There are several such schools for boys. The asylums of John Bost give shelter to the victims of the most harrowing forms of human malady — the incurable, the epileptic, and the insane. There are institutions for the deaf and the blind, homes for children whose mothers are in hospitals, children's summer outings, convalescent homes, homes near mineral springs like those of Vichy, or of Aix-les-Bains for special diseases, homes on the sea-shore for the tired and the sick, dispensaries, employment bureaus, loan associations for the poor, societies of friends of apprentices — these latter are very numerous, — a society of ladies visiting the sick in hospitals, societies of relief by labour, the Society of the *Fourmis* (Ants), which has 7,000 or 8,000 young women sewing for the poor, the asylum for young girls morally abandoned, the work for fallen women, the work among women in prison, a society to help liberated prisoners, an asylum for labourers without work, a society of colonisation, a Christian home for servants, homes for working-women, and many other kindred organ-

isations. Most of this work might have for its motto the beautiful inscription which the Bernese poet, Haller, placed upon the hospital of his city, *Christo in pauperibus*. Whatever may be the imperfections and deficiencies of French Protestants, they neglect neither the sick nor the poor. The significant parting words of their pastors at the close of the service are: "Go in peace and forget not the poor."

Another manifestation of French Protestant life is their missions. Long hampered by a legislation which prevented them from holding meetings of more than twenty persons — unless they had a permit from the authorities, and it was almost always refused — they, none the less, have accomplished much. In 1833 they founded the Evangelical Society of France, which is undenominational, and, later on, the Central Society, which is the home missionary society of the Reformed Churches. For many years the Evangelical Society of Geneva has worked in France, and the Free Churches have also an organisation for special missionary work. Altogether they have from 700 to 800 mission stations. In this no mention is made of the work of the Methodists, who have 25 or 30 churches and an efficient corps of local preachers; that of the Baptists, with about a score of

earnest churches; the McAll Mission with its halls, its methods, and its aggressive spirit; the Evangelical Society of Brittany, among the sturdy, old-fashioned Bretons; the Mission in the High Alps among French Waldensians; the missions among the soldiers; the work among priests; the summer organisation of services in watering-places, etc. Very important are the missionary ventures of foreigners in France, and yet the most important force of church expansion is from the churches themselves.

If from home we pass to foreign missions, we find many establishments in Algeria and Tunis, on the northern side of what is fast becoming "Black France." Protestants have missions in Senegal and the French Congo. The French missionaries have evangelised and civilised the Basutos in South Africa. This is one of the most perfect missionary triumphs in any part of the world. Then they have entered the Zambesi Valley, the most deadly field for missionaries and one where numerous graves mark the end of the career of those heroic servants of God and humanity. During the last ten years French Protestants have centred their chief efforts in Madagascar where, with Norwegian and English missionaries, they are doing an admirable work through their hospitals for lepers, their

schools, and churches. Moving eastward, we find them in Indo-China, then in the Pacific Ocean. They do a most efficient work in New Caledonia and in the Society Islands, in Polynesia. Without making any depreciatory comparisons with the missionaries of any other nationality or church, it may be fearlessly asserted that French missionaries have cultivated the heroic spirit to an unusual degree. Were we to look for the best traits of the old Huguenots in their descendants, we should find them in the French Protestant missionaries more than anywhere else. Their missions are their most perfect work and the most praiseworthy display of their energy. They have refrained from all non-religious entanglements, and refused to be political instruments of any government. Their missions are purely educational and religious.

Another great manifestation of life is to be found in the men whom Protestantism has produced. Senator Lodge has ably recognised this in the case of the Huguenots. "The largest number of men who have attained distinction, in this country, in proportion to their immigration, is undoubtedly given by France." He had in mind French Protestant exiles. Madame de Staël, the author of *Corinne* and of *De l'Allemagne*, belonged to the Reformed Church.

So also did Benjamin Constant, the political writer and orator; Cuvier, the founder of paleontology; de Quatrefages, the distinguished anthropologist; Léon Say and Gide, political economists; Guizot, de Pressensé, Boutmy, Gabriel Monod, E. Doumergue, and Bonet-Maury,¹ historians; Scherer, the great literary critic; Weiss, the brilliant dramatic critic, and André Michel, one of the foremost art critics of to-day; the two Stapfers, one a literary critic and the other a theologian; the three Sabatiers, unrelated except religiously — Armand, the biologist; Paul, the biographer of St. Francis of Assisi, and Auguste, the philosopher and theologian; Adolphe Monod, Bersier, and Wagner, great preachers and moral teachers; Delessert, who founded French savings banks; Henri Monod, who did more than any other man to organise national charities; Jules Siegfried, the pioneer in France of the national society of homes for workingmen; Admiral Jauréguiberry, well known for his bravery during the Franco-Prussian War, and Colonel Denfert-Rochereau, for his heroic defence of Belfort. Many more might be mentioned who have been distinguished servants of France and mankind.

¹ Prof. Bonet-Maury has been the most efficient interpreter of French Protestantism to the cultivated English-speaking world. He has also done splendid service in Holland, Scandinavia, and Germany in the same direction, not to mention other work that he has done for France abroad.

The high scientific culture of the professors of Protestant theology has inspired such respect that their faculties were supported by the government, as branches of French universities, after the Catholic faculties had been cut off. Their ablest men take a high place in the world of thought. They have their members in every academy of the French Institute. They have professors in the Collège de France, in the Sorbonne, in the School of High Graduate Studies, in the School of Oriental Languages, in the School of Law, and in many other institutions of learning. They are largely represented in the Senate, in the Chamber of Deputies, and in the diplomatic service. The governor who perished at Martinique was a Protestant, and his successor, Governor Lemaire, is one also. The government knows the worth of Protestant integrity. Protestants are conspicuous in the industrial and in the banking world. Baron Mallet, who died recently, was long the president of the Bank of France. A gentleman of large experience made the statement in presence of the writer that they are in great demand as treasurers of corporations. This is certainly a tribute to their character.

One prominent feature of this Protestant life — as of all life — is its self-organising power.

Whenever a religious function of any kind seemed desirable an organ to carry it on was created. Hence the numerous and timely organisations formed under the Republic. The old synods, interrupted by Louis XIV at Loudun in 1660, were resumed by permission of the government in 1872.¹ Synods were an essential part of the ecclesiastical life of French Protestants, for without them there was no possible doctrinal or spiritual discipline. For the better part of a century two conflicting tendencies were thereby strongly developed, which practically gave rise to two different bodies with one common church machinery. They were constantly in touch; they worshipped in the same *temples*, as they call their meeting-houses; they even had the same officers, and often the same pastors. When the churches were large they could have both a conservative and an advanced pastor; there would be a rationalistic sermon in the morning and an evangelical one in the afternoon, or *vice versa*. By a natural grouping, the pastor of each side had his own followers; but that arrangement generated no little friction, and, furthermore, the small churches were obliged to have an evangelical pastor when many were Unitarians, or a Unitarian pastor when a large

¹ Bersier, *op. cit.*

contingent was evangelical. This was an abnormal situation, bound to last as long as Protestants held their State relations.

In 1878 the Evangelicals organised what they called the *Synode officieux*, a working synod of their own forces, while they remained in the State ecclesiastical body. By so doing they could control all the works which they sustained so liberally. Within the State organisation they introduced a strictly Presbyterian one, looking after their religious interests. Thus, while their pastors were still paid by the State, and they continued to worship in buildings belonging to the State, in other respects they were free to direct and control every form of their Christian activities sustained by their own gifts. Similarly, the Liberals, among whom are some of the noblest spirits of the land, founded a kindred organisation which they called the Liberal Delegation. With all their culture and their claims that they alone can meet modern religious inquiries, their endeavours to reach the people have been frail and spasmodic, and the results disappointing. Their efforts to reach the churchless have been few and have lacked the aggressive spirit of apostleship. In the supreme test of religious earnestness — giving — they are far from liberal. These two organisations were

tending to make the State ecclesiastical machinery useless, when the Separation came to destroy it and left the two branches of French Protestantism virtually organised, and bound to steer by their respective charts. There are, therefore, now two — in fact three — organisations of the Huguenot churches, the Evangelical, the Liberal, and a middle group of those opposed to the ecclesiastical division, and who, endeavouring to prevent it, constitute a third group which is not likely to be long-lived. Steps have already been taken to federate all the eight hundred and fifty Protestant churches of the country, for the furtherance of their common interests. The *Réformés* as a whole were not anxious to have the Separation, but now that it has come they have faced it courageously, not to say gladly. They have easily provided for their pastoral and church expenses, but it is to be hoped that their other works may not suffer during the period of transition. Henceforth the relations between the pastors of the churches will be pleasanter, as they will be free from the old friction. Religion will be preached with more directness and more cumulative effect. There is work for both branches of the Huguenot churches to do, and in doing it they should lay stress upon what Guizot called “the moral

unity of Protestantism." There is among their members great potential moral energy. Taken all in all, they have a high sense of Christian living, and this is true of almost all practising Protestants. Though deficient in æsthetics, if we judge aright their architecture, their music, and their worship, their character stands high. Their conception of moral obligation is not like that of Dumas's character who says, "Duty is what you expect others to do"; these *Réformés* are primarily strict with themselves. As a rule, they are not very cheerful — gay. Like the English of Froissart, "they take their pleasures sadly." They have a quasi-worship of ancestors, but that does not express itself in mere retrospective admiration, but in inspiration to rise over present difficulties. They have a keen sense of fairness and courage to assert it. After the Separation did they not defend Catholics? For these sons of the Huguenots the problems of this event — great as they are — seem trivial when one remembers their present situation as compared with that of 1715, at the time of the efforts of Antoine Court to revive the churches, or even when Napoleon granted them his protection. When one looks beneath the miseries of French Protestant life, one detects its great determinants not so much in well-defined theo-

logical conceptions as a strong insistence upon thinking and also upon right thinking. Even the most conservative, who view the leading trend of modern thought with suspicion, are progressive and accept loyally all the advanced institutions of our day. As a whole, they affect those who have different doctrines and different ideals. Free-thinkers, like Renan and Taine, had their children taught by Protestant pastors. Renouvier became one of their best friends, if not one of their adherents. Some of the foremost philosophers have come to sympathise with the liberalism of Protestants at large, while Taine requested that at his death the rites of religion should be performed by a Protestant pastor. On the other hand, Catholics of a liberal type have relaxed their former mistrust, read the best Protestant literature, come in touch with Protestant life, so that conservative Catholics have called attention to "Protestant infiltrations" and sounded the alarm in presence of the "Protestant Peril." The truth is that Protestantism in France has been a mediating force between the extreme forces of Catholicism and Materialism, thereby bringing them nearer and inspiring them to some extent with its liberalism and its spiritual life.

Its progress is a part of the general advance

of French democracy, a movement which we have endeavoured to appraise. The opponents of existing institutions, though faithfully doing their part in the present struggle, have so long and so unfairly attacked the Republic that many foreigners have been misled. In hitting the Republic they struck France. Therefore, we have been obliged to give the government full credit for its good work. In fact, it is a part of the nation's life, and more could have been said about its far-reaching action, but our purpose has been pre-eminently to bring out the expansion of French powers, their evolution, their mental, moral, and religious transformation. The best evidence of the accuracy of our judgment is the remarkable stand of France at the present time, bravely and calmly doing her duty, fighting not only for her liberty but for that of the world, withal grappling humanely with all the problems which the French victims of the bloody conflict force upon her.

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